

Institutions in Context: The Free Market

9-15 June, 2014

Tampere, Finland

Call for Papers

The University of Tampere is delighted to invite Master's and doctoral students of all appropriate fields and disciplines to participate in a week long workshop on The Free Market. The workshop is organized and hosted by the North American Studies Program and funded by the Jane and Aatos Erkkö Foundation.

The purpose of the workshop is to bring together a diverse group of leading scholars* from Europe and North America – including political scientists, economists, historians, and sociologists – to discuss the issue of the free market from all angles. The theme of the workshop is broad to encourage a multidisciplinary approach to major institutional questions involved. It has become commonplace to hail “the free market” as the optimal solution to any and all economic (and political) challenges. Proponents of free markets tout in particular both the potential for efficiency gains from and the normative allure of decentralized markets that leverage “the wisdom of the crowd” and price mechanisms to supply society’s needs. Its ideological attractiveness notwithstanding, the free market is no panacea: popular zeal for the concept tends to gloss over both the stringency of the assumptions underpinning the idealized free market and the potential human (and economic) costs of relying on the market without adequately accounting for those assumptions. This workshop examines the free market from a number of angles, from the theoretical and real-world impact of the model and its extensions to the construction and spread of free-market ideology. We will discuss both positive and negative impacts of the use of the model in fields ranging from economics, political science, history, sociology, and communications.

Part of each day will be devoted to speaker presentations. The other part is devoted to student presentations to give the students opportunities for comments and suggestions from the scholars and their peers.

Room and board is covered for all students. For U.S. and Canada based students we will also provide a stipend of €1100 which can be used to cover travel expenses. (Europe and Nordic/Baltic based students, please inquire regarding the travel stipend.) For Finnish students we will cover domestic travel at the lowest cost rates. The deadline for applications is the 16th of April 2014. More information and the application form are available at the following link:

http://www.uta.fi/yky/en/studies/disciplines/northamericanstudies/summer_school.html

Applicants should send the application form and the listed documents and abstract to katri.sieberg@uta.fi

* Speakers: Mika Aaltola, Finnish Institute of International Affairs; Catherine Eckel, Texas A&M University; James Foster, George Washington University; Bernard Grofman, University of California-Irvine; Matti Hannikainen, University of Tampere; William Heller, Binghamton University; Kaisa Herne, University of Tampere; Manfred Holler, University of Hamburg; Charles Holt, University of Virginia; Nils Karlson, Ratio; D. Roderick Kiewiet, Caltech; Henri Kynsilehto, Leiki.com; Donald Light, Visiting Researcher, Princeton University and Professor, Rowan University-SOM; Topi Miettinen, University of Helsinki; Peter Miller, University of Pennsylvania; Timothy Nokken, Texas Tech University; David Rueda, Oxford University; Matti Tuomala, University of Tampere.