

German and Dutch Section  
Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages  
University of Cambridge

# Economic Subjects

Trilateral Doctoral Colloquium  
Berlin–Cambridge–Chicago

9-11 July 2018  
The Bawden Room  
West Court, Jesus College

The bi-annual colloquium of doctoral students from the FU Berlin (Schlegel Schule), Cambridge, and Chicago took place at Jesus College Cambridge this year. Our guests from Germany and the US joined us from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2018 to discuss questions of economic subjectivity and subjectivation within literary, cultural and philosophical texts from the early modern period through to contemporary material.

The contributions to the conference addressed economic subjects in all that formulation's possible meanings and encompassed a wide range of approaches and topics: Shakespeare, Bataille, Digital Humanities, Nazi film, female avarice, libidinal economies, Benjamin, Nietzsche, Goethe, Brecht, Houellebecq, and others. The three days that we spent together encompassed material from three different languages and across six centuries. We discussed papers that, despite their groundings in different historical epochs, artistic media, national and transnational literary traditions, were bound together in their interrogation of cultural production's engagement with the subject of economy and the imbrication of economics and subjectivity.

The keynote lecture of the conference was delivered by Sarah Colvin who drew from her research on prison writing to elaborate on the economic order of the prison, and to explore an alternative perspective on the history of post-1945 German capitalism.

Thanks to the generous support of the Schröder Fund we were able to enjoy a formal dinner at Jesus College on the first night of the conference and to join the Shakespeare Festival in Cambridge for a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on the second night.

The full programme of the event can be found [here](#).

Finally, the organizing team would like to thank

- the faculty from Berlin, Cambridge, and Chicago – Sarah Colvin, Anne Eusterschulte, Eric Santner, and Andrew Webber – who spent these three days with us and enriched the debate immensely,
- all our speakers for the preparation and presentation of such a wonderful variety of papers, particularly those who joined us from Berlin and Chicago,
- the department's secretary, Ulrike Balsler, for all the time and efforts she invested to make the event a success,
- the Schröder Fund, for supporting the event so generously and, thus, enabling an inspiring exchange with our fellow students.



