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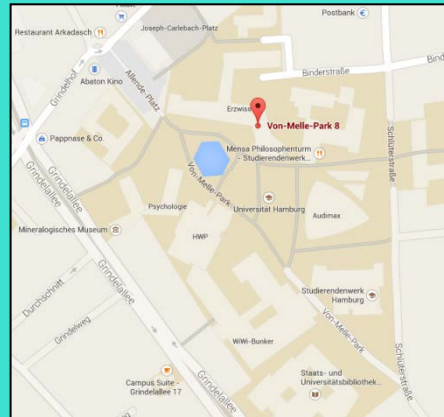
and kindly supported by the Department of Research and Science Foundation as well as the Faculty of Education (University of Hamburg)

Registration

Attendance is free of charge.

Mandatory registration to:
apas@uni-hamburg.de

Location



Auditorium »Anna Siemsen«
(Faculty of Education)

University of Hamburg
Von-Melle-Park 8
20146 Hamburg

Public transport

Train & S-Bahn station
»Hamburg Dammtor«,
Bus Station »Grindelhof«
(Bus Lines M4 und M5)

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Universität Hamburg
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International Conference
»Lost in Perfection«
Impacts of Optimization on
Culture and Psyche



October 9th 2015
University of Hamburg

Organized by the research group of the APAS project (Univ. Hamburg, IPU Berlin, FSU Jena):

Prof. Dr. Vera King, Prof. Dr. Benigna Gerisch,
Prof. Dr. Hartmut Rosa, Dr. Diana Lindner,
Christiane Beerbom, Katarina Busch,
Benedikt Salfeld-Nebgen, Julia Schreiber,
Niels Uhlendorf

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»Lost in Perfection« Impacts of Optimization on Culture and Psyche

International, transdisciplinary Conference

The permanent struggle for optimization can be seen as one of the most significant cultural principles of contemporary Western societies: The incessant increase of performance and productivity, the constant pursuit of self-improvement and human multitasking are considered necessary in order to keep pace with an accelerated, competitive modernity.

Hence, in different social fields and in everyday life activities, various necessities of optimization and new efforts in terms of perfection emerge creating conflicts and contradictions. Thus, the demand for constant improvement and increase in efficiency does not only have effects on work and education, but also on family life, parent-child-relationships and intimate relationships in respect to body and self, in the public as well as in the private realm. In this context, questions regarding psychic effects and costs, contradictions and limits of optimization are to be raised in this international, transdisciplinary conference. Furthermore, the effects of social transformations on individuals, the inter-relation between culture and psyche, including the shifts in regard to the meaning of 'pathology' and 'normality' are of particular interest.

Program

9:00 – 9:30

Welcome and Introduction

9:30 – 10:30

Alain Ehrenberg (Paris):

»The two meanings of the notion of social pathology: Toward an anthropology of adversity in individualistic societies«

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 – 12:00

Ève Chiapello (Paris):

»Optimisation in the context of financialisation«

12:10 – 13:10

Heinz Bude (Kassel):

»Fear as the key to the meaning of the whole thing«

13:10 – 14:30

Lunch

14:30 – 15:30

Eva Illouz (Jerusalem):

»Intimacy and Self worth as receding points of the horizon«

15:40 – 16:40

Ada Borkenhagen (Leipzig):

»Optimized Bodies – fighting death in the context of aesthetic medicine«

16:40 – 17:10

Coffee break

17:10 – 18:10

Vera King, Benigna Gerisch, Hartmut Rosa et al. (Hamburg, Berlin, Jena):

» ›There's a lot of progress, but that doesn't mean it's getting better.‹ Contradictions of perfection in the accelerated modernity«

18:15 – 19:10

Panel discussion

with A. Borkenhagen, H. Bude, È. Chiapello, A. Ehrenberg, B. Gerisch, E. Illouz, V. King, H.-C. Koller, H. Rosa

19:15 – 19:30

Closing words