

Master class with Philipp Ther on the history of neoliberal Europe 15 February, 1.15-3PM at Utrecht University

Sponsored by

- Market Makers. The History of Neoliberalism in the Netherlands (www.neoliberalisme.nl)
- Section for Political History, Utrecht University (www.uu.nl/en/research/political-history)
- National research school for political history (onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl)

Convener: Ido de Haan, professor of political history (Utrecht University)

Philipp Ther (1967) is one of the most prominent historians of contemporary Europe. After an education in history, sociology and political science at the universities of Regensburg, Munich and Georgetown, Ther received his PhD from the Freie Universität Berlin. He was a John F. Kennedy Fellow at the Center for European Studies of Harvard University before he held positions at the Europa-Universität Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) and the European University Institute in Florence. Since 2011, he is university professor for the history of Middle and

Eastern Europe and of nation building at the Institute for Eastern-European History of the University of Vienna.



Ther is the author and editor of an impressive series of books, edited volumes and scholarly articles. He received critical acclaim for his work on issues of nationality, notably *Deutsche und polnische Vertriebene: Gesellschaft und Vertriebenenpolitik in der SBZ/DDR und in Polen 1945–1956* (Göttingen 1998) and *Die dunkle Seite der Nationalstaaten. „Ethnische Säuberungen“ im modernen Europa* (Bonn 2013; English translation 2014). But he is also an expert on the cultural and social history of the opera, see among other works *In der Mitte der Gesellschaft. Operntheater in Zentraleuropa 1815–1914* (Wien/München 2006, English translation 2014). His decisive claim to fame, confirmed by a very enthusiastic international reception as well as the 2015 Leipzig Book Fair Prize, is *Die neue Ordnung auf dem alten Kontinent* (Berlin 2014), which came out in an English translation as *Europe since 1989. A History* (Princeton 2016).

Topic

In this master class, we will focus on *Europe since 1989. A History* as stepping stone to discuss the impact of neoliberalism in the recent history of Europe. The central argument of the book is that the era after fall of the Berlin Wall in both east and west was determined by neoliberal ideas. The restructuring of post-communist countries was aimed at liberalization, deregulation, and privatization, but the capitalist West's effort to reshape Eastern Europe in its own likeness ended up reshaping Western Europe as well, accelerating the pace and scope of neoliberal reforms in the West, and enforcing neoliberal reforms in Southern Europe, following the 2008-9 global financial crisis. In this way, Ther demonstrates the deep impact of ideas on the economic, social, political transformation of contemporary Europe. He thus makes a crucial contribution to the study of the predicament of the various parts of Europe and the continent as a whole.

Participation

Participation in this master class will be limited to 25 participants. Participation is open to research master students as well as to PhD.s, postdocs and senior researcher. Requirement for participation is to read *Europe since 1989. A History*, and to submit a 100 word reflection on its topic, as the starting point for an open discussion. Students who want to receive 1 ECTS for this master class also have to submit a 1500 word paper reflecting on the debate of the master class before 15 March 2018 at i.dehaan@uu.nl. The ECTS will be awarded by the National Research School for Political History.

How to apply?

You can apply to participate by sending in a one page CV, including a list of relevant publications (max. 5) and a 100 word paragraph on your academic field of interest, *before 5 February 2018, 5 PM*, via i.dehaan@uu.nl (in the header: masterclass Ther). You will hear if you are selected for participation by 7 February, after which you will receive further details about the arrangements for this master class.

NB: The master class will be followed by a lecture of Philipp Ther on the same topic, open for everyone, on 15 February, 3.30-5PM, Utrecht University, Drift 25, room 102.

