

workshop

VALUE AND VALUATION

Challenges in political economy analysis

22-23 June 2023

Iscte-University Institute of Lisbon



In capitalist economies, values, as prices, are often understood as the main medium of coordination among economic agents and resource allocation. Through this, vertical and horizontal differences are constructed in the social distribution of commodities and work. The construction and the evaluation of value are present in a number of different but related concepts, such as commodification, objectification, qualification, marketization, economization, competition, capitalisation, or value chains. These concepts are starting points for analysing value and valuations.

Valuations are the main mechanisms in the emergence and consolidation of socio-economic inequalities. Valuation has also been linked to calculation practices dealing with uncertainty and imagining futures. In this sense, valuations refer to norms that legitimise calculation practices and provide moral judgements of market objects and market practices. Furthermore, valuations also reflect interests sustained by social groups such as business or political elites, which have a formative impact in the organization of valuation parameters.

In addition to that, valuations refer to processes of defining the criteria for how value creation is measured, allowing for classifications of productivity, value of scientific knowledge or the framing of parts of organisations and of the economy as “cost centres” vs “profit centres”. They give rise to controversies and conflict over what constitutes valuable and non-valuable activities.

The emergence and consolidation of what constitutes value and how to measure it is also shaped by professional groups (economists and other economic experts, lawyers etc.) and of other fields of expertise. Thus, valuation practices allow to control and influence economic and political interests over how the economy should operate. What and how objects gain or lose value also reflects the shifts in meanings attributed by social groups, the formation of tastes, the effects of contexts of consumption, and consumption practices more broadly.

call for papers

until 31 march 2023

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Given the wide range of perspectives under which value and valuation can be studied as well as the multiplicity of links to other conceptual problems it can open up, in this workshop we aim to discuss the topic of value and valuation from different perspectives.

We invite papers that address one of the following questions:

- What has been achieved in studies relevant for this topic?
- What prospects and paths for research should we expect and strive for?
- What role should be attributed to the idea of value?

We welcome proposals that analyse value from various disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives as well research focusing on empirical domains from economic activities, the educational field (e.g. the value of scientific knowledge), health system and the various public policy areas. Papers either of theoretical, methodological and empirical nature are welcome.

The workshop is organised by: Luísa Veloso (Iscte/CIES, University Institute of Lisbon), Alexandre Silva (Iscte/CIES, University Institute of Lisbon), Stephan Pühringer (University of Linz), Jens Maesse (University of Giessen), Thierry Rossier (University of Fribourg and London School of Economics).

Participants will not be charged any fee.

We welcome submissions that address one of these topics or related research questions.

Please send your abstract (300-400 words) to:

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Notification of acceptance: 30 April 2023

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