

# Evolutionary theories of politics and institutions

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Time: January 17-19.

This will be a readings / presentations – based Seminar. We will be discussing evolutionary theories of institutional change and political decision-making. November 7<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 in the Walter Eucken Institute, Goethestr. 10, I will introduce the concept of the seminar and allocate themes for presentations and essays. Presentations / essays can take one (or more) of the following texts as a basis, present the crucial idea and give critical comment:

**The texts are available in the “Semesterapparat”!**

Menger, Carl (1883/1985): *Investigations into the method of the Social Sciences with Special Reference to Economics*, New York: New York University Press (chapter on organic institutions), pp. 133-160.

Schumpeter, Joseph A. (1942/87): *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*, London: Unwin, (chapter on “another theory of democracy”); pp. 269-283.

Hayek, Friedrich A. (1988): *The Fatal Conceit. The Errors of Socialism*, London: Routledge (chapters on “Cultural Evolution”), pp.11-38.

Vanberg, Viktor (1994): Cultural Evolution, Collective Learning, and Constitutional Design, in David Reisman (ed.), *Economic Thought and Political Theory*, Boston: Dordrecht, pp.171-204.

Kuran, Timor (1995): *Private Truths, Public Lies. The Social Consequences of Preference Falsification*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press (ch. 15)

Slembeck, Tilman (1997): The Formation of Economic Policy: A Cognitive-Evolutionary Approach, *Constitutional Political Economy*, Vol. 8, pp. 225-254.

Ostrom, Elinor (2000): Collective Action and the Evolution of Social Norms, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 14 (3), 137-158.

Olson, Mancur (2000): *Power and Prosperity. Outgrowing Communist and Capitalist Dictatorships*, New York: Basic Books (chapter 8 and 9), pp.135-172.

Wohlgemuth, Michael (2002): Democracy and Opinion-Falsification: Towards a New Austrian Political Economy.

Witt, Ulrich (2003): Economic Policy Making in Evolutionary Perspective, *Journal of Evolutionary Economics*, 13, pp.77-94.

North, Douglass C. (2005): *Understanding the Process of Economic Change*, Princeton: Princeton University Press (chapter 5 and 6), pp. 48-80.