

OSTROM WORKSHOP **TOCQUEVILLE LECTURE SERIES**

Stefan Kolev

Political Economy

Wilhelm Röpke Institute, Erfurt, Germany

“Ordoliberalism and the Austrian School:
Two Potentially Complementary Varieties
of German-Language Liberalism”

Friday, February 10, 2017

12:00–1:30 p.m. • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

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While in recent decades the scholarly interest in the history and in the further development of the Austrian School of Economics has steadily increased, the German tradition of ordoliberalism has lost in prominence, especially in the international discourse on political economy. This talk aims to show how revitalizing the ordoliberal heritage can be a promising endeavor for this discourse. A history of economics approach is utilized: the presentation focuses on a group of scholars broadly belonging to the same generation whose decades-long exchange is helpful to portray both the nuanced differences and the possible complementarities of the two strands of thought: Walter Eucken (1891–1950) and Wilhelm Röpke (1899–1966) as the key representatives of ordoliberalism, as well as Ludwig von Mises (1881–1973) and F. A. von Hayek (1899–1992) as their Austrian counterparts. A deeper understanding of the ordoliberal concepts of interdependent societal orders, power, competition, stability, and economic humanism shows the potential “gains from trade” for the two research programs, but also ordoliberalism’s relevance for the increasing politico-economic fragility of today’s world.



Stefan Kolev is a professor of political economy at the University of Applied Sciences Zwickau and deputy director of the Wilhelm Röpke Institute in Erfurt, Germany. His research interests include history of economics, constitutional political economy, Austrian economics, and economic sociology. Currently a research fellow at the Center for the History of Political Economy at Duke University, his book *Neoliberal Conceptions of the State in Comparison* is forthcoming in a second edition in 2017 ([website](#)).

Presentations are open to the public and are live streamed (see our website for URL). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).