

OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

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“Antipathy for Heidelberg, Sympathy for Freiburg? Vincent Ostrom on Max Weber, Walter Eucken, and the Compound History of Order”



Monday, November 18, 2019

12:00–1:00 PM • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

Vincent Ostrom’s legacy is revisited in this paper along three dimensions: Ostrom’s contributions as a historian of politico-economic thought, as a complexity theorist and as an epistemologist. All three dimensions are captured from a perspective which has seldom been studied systematically before: The paper reconstructs Ostrom as a reader and interpreter of German politico-economic thought, especially of Max Weber’s theory of bureaucracy and of Walter Eucken’s theory of social and epistemic orders. The systems of these two German social scientists embody for Ostrom the two types of social order central to his own typology. By incorporating archival sources from the Vincent Ostrom Papers, including extensive correspondence with German colleagues he met during the Ostroms’ 1981/1982 stay at Bielefeld’s Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF), the paper depicts how the study of Eucken’s research program during the 1980s and 1990s constituted the final layer of Ostrom’s decades-long engagement with intellectual history.

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[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. He earned his PhD in economics from the University of Hamburg in 2011. Stefan’s research focuses on the history of economic thought, constitutional political economy and economic sociology. He is co-editor of *ORDO Yearbook of Economic and Social Order* and of *Journal of Contextual Economics – Schmollers Jahrbuch*.

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