Early Marxism in Europe: Nikolay Ivanovich Sieber (1870s–1880s)

This international conference aims at shedding light on early Marxism in Europe by promoting the work of the Swiss-Russian economist N.I. Sieber (1844–1888), who introduced Karl Marx in Russia and was the first translator of David Ricardo’s contributions into Russian. A Swiss citizen born in Crimea and educated in Kiev, Sieber had a very short academic career in Kiev before exiling himself in Switzerland. From there, he traveled to Paris and to London, where he met Marx. He was therefore a genuine European economist.

This one-day conference deals with Sieber’s approach to Marxism, to late classical political economy, to his links with European social and revolutionary movements. It also addresses these issues beyond Sieber’s case. Eventually, it presents the Joint Russian Switzerland Project on Sieber (2016-2019).

Organisers: Amanar Akhabbar (ESSCA – School of Management) and François Allisson (Université de Lausanne)

Scientific committee: Amanar Akhabbar (ESSCA – School of Management), François Allisson (Université de Lausanne), Matthieu Ballandonne (ESSCA), Federico D’Onofrio (LSE), Danila Raskov (St. Petersburg State University).

Venue: ESSCA School of Management, 55 quai Alphonse Le Gallo, 92513 – Boulogne-Billancourt

 Métro: Ligne 10, station Boulogne – Pont de Saint-Cloud

Free attendance, but subject to prior registration, due to limited places and security reasons. Please contact francois.allisson@unil.ch in case of interest.

Session one. Chaired by Matthieu Ballandonne (ESSCA – School of Management)

9h00–9h05
Pascal Lebarbier (Director of ESSCA, Paris Campus), Amanar Akhabbar (ESSCA – School of Management) and François Allisson (University of Lausanne)
« Speech of Bienvenue »

9h05–9h30
François Allisson (University of Lausanne) and Danila Raskov (Saint Petersburg State University)
« Presentation of the Sieber Project (2016–2919) and of its two forthcoming volumes:
— Nikolay Ivanovich Sieber on Value and Capital »
— Политическая экономия Зибера. Антологи / Political Economy of Nikolai Sieber. An Anthology

9h30-10h10
Alessandro Stanziani (Directeur de recherche CNRS, Directeur d’études EHESS, EHESS-CRH)
« Backwardness in Perspective, in Russian and Western Economic Thought »

10h10–10h50
Roberto Scazzieri (Professor, Università di Bologna)
« Late classical political economy: divergent paths and contexts »
10h50-11h10
Coffee break – Courtesy of the ESSCA

Session two. Chaired by Amanar Akkhabar (ESSCA – School of Management)

11h10–11h50
Leonid Shirokorad (Professor, Saint Petersburg State University)
« Nikolai Sieber and Soviet Political Economy »

11h50–12h30
Paul Zarembka (Professor, State University of New York at Buffalo)
« Engels’ Failure to Incorporate Marx’s Instructions from ’Capital’, French edition into 3rd and 4th German: Dismissal of Marx’s Work on Russia »

12h30-14h30
Lunch - Au Garde Manger, 21 Rue d'Orléans, 92210 Saint-Cloud (10 min. walk) – Courtesy of ESSCA

Session three. Chaired by Jérôme Lallement (University of Paris Descartes)

14h30–15h10
Federico D’Onofrio (Teaching Fellow, LSE)
« Sieber and Statistics »

15h10–15h50
Alexander Pogrebnyak (Associate Professor, Saint Petersburg State University)
« Sieber as a Critic of Marginalism »

15h50-16h20
Coffee break – Courtesy of the ESSCA

Session four. Chaired by Federico D’Onofrio (LSE)

16h20–17h00
Amanar Akkhabar (Professor, ESSCA – School of Management)
Presentation of his new book Leontief et la science économique (ENS Editions, 2019)
With comments by Jérôme Lallement, Matthieu Ballandone and François Allisson

17h00-17h40
Danila Raskov (Associate Professor, Saint Petersburg State University)
« Intellectual Biography of Sieber in His Letters »

17h40-18h20
François Allisson (Senior Lecturer, Université de Lausanne)
« Writing and Reading Between the Lines: From Sieber to a Larger Take on Censorship »

18h20-18h30
Danila Raskov (Saint-Petersburg State University)
« Farewell Speech »

20h00 – Aperitif and Dinner - Courtesy of the Swiss National Science Foundation
Restaurant Les Résistants, 16-18 Rue du Château d’Eau, 75010 Paris (10 min. by foot from Hôtel 20 Prieuré)