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Einladung / Opening Lecture
zur Eröffnung des

Forschungszentrums Social Theory /
Social Theory Centre

Patrick Baert
University of Cambridge

**Taboos and shifts in intellectual and political currents:
a historical perspective**

Tuesday, 16th October, 2018, 6 – 8 p.m.
Fakultätssitzungssaal (Sowi, 3rd floor, East)

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Patrick Baert
University of Cambridge

Originally from Brussels, Professor Patrick Baert did his graduate work at the University of Oxford, working on social theory under the supervision of Rom Harré. He subsequently joined the Sociology Department in Cambridge. His writings have been translated into more than 10 languages.

Patrick is the chief editor of the *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society* (Springer) and he also holds editorial positions at the *European Journal of Social Theory*, the *Journal of Classical Sociology*, *Currently Sociology*, and *Distinktion*.

He has held visiting positions across the world, including the University of Cape Town, l'Université de Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne, the Humboldt University Berlin, Brown University, the University of British Columbia, the University of Concepcion in Chile, the LSE and Sciences Po.

He has coordinated the Social Theory Research Network of both, the European Sociological Association and the International Sociological Association. One of his recent books is *The Existentialist Moment; Sartre's Rise as a Public Intellectual*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Programme

Chairs

Kristina Stoeckl/Frank Welz (Coordinators, Social Theory Centre)

Welcome Address

Ulrike Tanzer (Vice Rector for Research)

Opening Address

Helmut Staubmann (Dean, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences)

Opening Lecture

Taboos and shifts in intellectual and political currents: a historical perspective

Patrick Baert (University of Cambridge)

We often conceive of taboos as associated with cultures different to ours, but taboos are of course part and parcel of modern Western existence.

Drawing on his own historical research on intellectuals in Europe, Patrick Baert argues that taboos are interwoven with contemporary politics and philosophical strands. The notion of taboo is not only key to making sense of the emergence of new political and philosophical visions, but it is also central to understanding their fall.

Reception (all invited)