



This conference explores the relationships between consumption, accumulation, production, reproduction and politics today. Taking the apparent generalisation of conditions of austerity as an opportunity to re-visit longer ongoing debates surrounding the extra-economic nature of commodity consumption, and its complex relationship to commodity production, the conference asks whether traditional conceptualisations of the politics of consumption require revision. What empirical developments have become crucial? What theories remain helpful? What political mobilisations have become inevitable? The conference gathers together leading figures for the sake of debating and contesting such issues. The conference also forms the basis of a special issue of *ephemera: theory and politics in organization* - please read the [call for papers](#) for more information.

Conference Schedule

Day One: Wednesday the 9th of May

11.30-1.30 - Registration & Lunch

1.30-1.45 - Welcome and Introductory Remarks

1.45-3 Keynote Presentation 1 – Ben Fine

‘Consumption Matters’

3-3.30 Coffee Break

3.30-5 Stream One – ***Consumption and Commodification***

Peter Armstrong

Alienated Consumption and the Commodification of Taste

Georgios Patsiaouras

From Trophies to Ferraris: a theoretical approach to the development of conspicuous consumption phenomena

Stephen Shukaitis

A Modest Proposal for Post-Reality Marketing

5.00 – Day Closes

Day Two: Thursday the 10th of May

9.00-10.30 – Stream Two – ***Consumption and Production***

Anders Kristensen
What is the Outside of Value?

Ekaterina Chertkovskaya
Commodification of Graduate Work

Øle Bjerg
Failing to Enjoy: Consumer Capitalism and Compulsive Buying Disorder

10.30-11.00 - Coffee Break

11.00-12.30 – Roundtable Discussion 1 - ***The Production and Consumption of the Law***

Stefano Harney, Denise Ferreira da Silva & Gerard Hanlon

12.30-1.30 Lunch Break

1.30-3.30 – Stream Three – ***Consumption and Citizenship***

Yikun Zhao
Between Consumers and Citizens: the Perspective of the Polity Model

Paula Gilligan
'Snog, Marry, Punish?': Consumption, Gender, the Reality TV Series and the State in 'Austerity Britain'

Eleftheria Lekakis
A Liquid Politics? Civic Engagement in Coffee Activism and the Banality of Consumer Citizenship

Nikhilesh Dholakia
The Subaltern Brand: The Cultural Politics of Colonial Era Indian Firms in the Post-Colonial Phase?

3.30-3.45 – Comfort Break

3.45-5 - Keynote Presentation 2 – Kate Soper

Towards an alternative prosperity? Irish “belatedness” and the politics of consumption

5 – Day Closes

Day Three: Friday the 11th of May

10-12 – Stream Four – *Consumption and Activism*

Andreas Chatzidakis, Antonis Vardis, Pauline McLaren and Alan Bradshaw
Exarcheia Now!

Markus Walz
The Magic of Ethical Brands or how to stabilise, not change, the system from within

Matthew Rodda
Protest without Return/Pedagogy with a gag

Femke Kaulingfreks & Ruud Kaulingfreks
Occupy Commodification/Commodify Occupation

12.00-12.30 – Coffee Break

12.30-2 – Roundtable Discussion 2 - *The Politics of Consumption in Ireland*

Kieran Allen, Deirdre Greaney, Paddy Dolan & Stephanie Rains

2.00-3.00 – Lunch Break

3.00- Conference Closes

3.30 – Farewell Drinks at the Pavilion Bar, Trinity College Dublin

Venue and getting there

The conference will take place at the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, 63 Merrion Square, Dublin 2 (see [Google Map](#)). Conveniently located at the heart of Georgian Dublin, this is a fitting venue for the conference theme, both because Ireland has taken centre stage within contemporary debates concerning compulsive excessiveness and retributive austerity, and also by virtue of the fact that cultural and historical nationalism has become a principal foundation of the contemporary politics of consumption. Visit the Society's website for more information (<http://www.rsai.ie/index.cfm>). Dublin's City Centre is a 30-45 minute bus ride from Dublin airport. The easiest way of getting there is to take the 747 bus to the city centre (€6): alternative routes exist, some cheaper, others more expensive. The conference venue is about a five minute walk from famous central landmarks such as Trinity College Dublin and St Stephen's Green. The nearest DART stations to the venue are Pearse Street and Grand Canal Dock - the area is also well served by a variety of Dublin Bus Services. Further details can be found at www.dart.ie (Trains) and www.dublinbus.ie (Buses).

Further information

For queries, you can contact one of the conference organizers:

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