

A GLOBAL THEORY  
OF REFLEXIVE DEBT

# RE: + SOLV ENCY

SYMPOSIUM 2025 FU BERLIN

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**RE:SOLVENCY** explores how debt can be reimagined as a more sustainable socio-economic medium — one that enables democratic deliberation of corporate, consumer and sovereign debt relations. If money makes the world go 'round, then debt speeds it up. The project understands debt as basic socio-economic medium and proposes to rethink it from its limits. Moving from an insolvency paradigm to one of re-solvency opens up the regulatory and reflexive potential of insolvency law. This shift positions insolvency not as an end-point, but as an anchor for a new democratic ('reflexive') understanding of debt integrating plural social rationalities — **RE:DEBT**.



## - DEBT & POLITICAL ECONOMY -

(Project PS0)



**Debt in the Anthropocene: Economic Growth & Sustainability Leverages – Bertram Lomfeld**

**Reflections:** Daniel Markovits (Yale University), Peer Zumbansen (McGill University), Katharina Pistor (Columbia University, written), David Grewal (Berkeley University, written)

## - CORPORATE DEBT -

(Project PS1)



**Ecological Corporate Debt: Unlocking Transformative Potential of Insolvency Law – Jannis Poetzsch-Heffter**

**Reflections:** Marija Bartl (Amsterdam University), Andreas Engert (Free University Berlin), Stephan Madaus (Halle University), Felix Steffek (Cambridge University)

(Project PS7)



**What is Just in Debt Distribution: An Experimental Economic View – Sven Hoepfner**

**Reflections:** Catarina Frade (University of Coimbra), Joanna Krucalak-Jankowska (University Gdansk), Gert-Jan Boon (Leiden University)

## - CREDIT CURRENCIES -

(Project PS5)



**Reflexive Money: A New Paradigm for Debt & Democracy – Claudius Deppe**

**Reflections:** Aaron Sahr (Hamburg Institute for Social Research), Smail Rasic (Wuppertal University), Steffen Murau (Global Climate Forum Berlin), Thomas Rixen (Free University Berlin)

(Project PS8)



**Social Credit Systems as Alternative Social (Moral) Currencies? – Eljiah Li & Bertram Lomfeld**

**Reflections:** Genia Kostka (Free University Berlin), Giacomo Corneo (Free University Berlin)

## - SOVEREIGN DEBT -

(Project PS4)



**State-Contingent Debt Instruments: Rethinking Sovereign Debt Ex Ante – Caterina Foti**

**Reflections:** Gonçalo Pina (ESCP Business School), Malina Stutz (NGO Erlassjahr), Christoph Paulus (Humboldt University Berlin, written)

(Project PS3)



**Debt-for-Nature Swaps & Transnational Environmental Governance – Julia Nassl**

**Reflections:** Matthias Goldmann (EBS Law School), Maria Schweinberger (Milbank New York), Isabel Feichtner (Würzburg University)

## - CONSUMER DEBT -

(Project PS2)



**A Matter of Time: A (Temporal) Reconstruction of Consumer Debt Relief & Limits – Esra Celebi**

**Reflections:** Luke Herrine (University of Alabama), Joe Spooner (London School of Economics), Hans-Wolfgang Micklitz (European University Institute), Olaf Muthorst (Free University Berlin)

(Project PS9)



**Anthropological Paths of Debt Governance – Bertram Lomfeld & Ruth Lipka**

**Reflections:** Felix Krämer (Erfurt University), Chloe Thurston (Northwestern University)

## - THE FUTURE OF DEBT -

(Project PS10)



**Reflexive Debt: A Plural (Legal) Grammar for Social Time Deliberation – Bertram Lomfeld**

**Reflections:** Ute Tellmann (Technical University Darmstadt), Daniel Cuonz (University St. Gallen), Pablo Holmes (Universidade de Brasilia)