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lecture

Governance by numbers

Tuesday 24th March 2015

at 6.00pm

Simone WEIL amphitheater
5, allée Jacques Berque, Nantes

By **Alain SUPIOT**

Professor at Collège de France e and
Founder of the IAS- Nantes and
President of the strategic committee

For the publication of his book "La Gouvernance
par les nombres (Cours au Collège de France
2012-2014)"

For the publication of his book « La gouvernance par les nombres » at Fayard publishing house in the « Poids et Mesures du monde » collection **Alain Supiot** will give a lecture at the Institute, with the presence of the cartoonist Selçuk Demirel.

Alain Supiot is Doctor in Law (Bordeaux, 1979), Associate Professor of Law Schools (1980), Doctor hc of the University of Louvain, Member of the Institut Universitaire de France . Alain Supiot was successively professor at the University of Poitiers and Nantes (UMR-CNRS 6028), before being elected to the Collège de France in 2012. He presided from 1998 to 2001 the National Council for the development of human and social sciences. His career has been marked by several years of overseas research (at the Institute of Industrial Relations at Berkeley in 1981, the European University Institute in Florence in 1989-90, the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin in 1997-98).

In Nantes, he first founded the Maison des sciences de l'Homme - Ange Guépin in 1995, which promotes an interdisciplinary approach to the transformations of socialities. Then in 2008 he founded and directed the Institute of Advanced Study in Nantes, hosting scholars coming from every continents aiming at a better understanding of the dogmatic frame of societies. Since 2013 he chairs the strategic committee.

Alain Supiot has published wether alone or with others 21 books and contributed to 37 collective works. He wrote 67 articles in French and 69 in other languages.

His research focuses on social law and legal theory

Theme

The feeling of "discontent of civilization" is not new, however the unprecedented intensity found in Europe today was not seen since the Second World War. Saturation of public space by economic and identity discourses is a symptom of a crisis whose underlying causes are institutional. The law, the democracy, the State and all legal frameworks to which we continue to refer are jostled by the resurgence of the old Western dream of calculation-based harmony. Initially reactivated by Taylorism and Soviet planning this scientist project today takes the form of governance by numbers, which is now developing through "globalization".

The reason of power is no longer sought in a sovereign body transcending society, but in standards inherent in the workings of society. A new normative ideal aiming at the effective achievement of measurable objectives rather than obeying fair laws allows it to thrive. Led by the digital revolution, this new institutional imagination is that of a society where laws give way to programs and regulations to regulations. But when their safety is not guaranteed by law that can be applied to all, people have no alternative but to swear allegiance to bodies stronger than them. Radicalizing the aspiration to an impersonal power that already characterized the assertion of the rule of law, governance by numbers thus paradoxically creates a world dominated by the ties of allegiance.