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lecture

The social and solidarity economy, germ of an alternative to capitalism

Tuesday 3rd February 2015

at 6.00pm

Simone WEIL amphitheater
5, allée Jacques Berque, Nantes

by

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Hiez David, 44, is Professor of Private Law at the University of Luxembourg and is head of the Law Department since 2012. He started as lecturer in France (Université Lille II), before becoming Professor in Luxembourg in 2006.

His research has been focused in two main directions: first, the social economy, then the theory of law, mainly the contract theory. He has recently developed an interest for African law, from a critical perspective based on the observation of its intrinsic ineffectiveness.

His latest publications:

D. Hiez, *Coopératives Création organisation fonctionnement*, Delmas 2013;

D. Hiez et E. Lavillunière (dir.), *Vers une théorie de l'économie sociale et solidaire*, Larcier 2013;

Theme

The social (and / or solidarity) economy is traditionally defined as enterprises, cooperatives, mutual benefit societies. Beyond the uncertainties as to its definition, it oscillates between a distinct sector of economic activity following different rules and prospective experiment of another model of society. Since its emergence, critics of capitalism have accompanied it and multiplied in recent years. The lecture will follow this line and explore why it seems possible to see in the social and solidarity economy a germ of such an alternative.

Several explanations can be offered, and we will insist particularly on legal grounds. On the non-legal point of view, three characteristics lead to retain the potential offered by the social economy as an alternative. It combines theory as well as practices, it is based on a man's holistic view, and finally it brings together extremely varied experiences. Coopaname in France and the 'cooperativa integral' in Spain are two examples illustrating perfectly this potential. Legally, three characteristics confirm the suitability of this alternative model such as the common ownership of the company, the continuous issue of the democracy and the opposition to consider benefit sharing as the ultimate goal of the company.