

## Informationen aus dem Rathaus

Ludwigshafen, April 26 2012

### **Avishai Margalit is awarded Ernst-Bloch-Prize 2012 Sponsorships Award goes to Lisa Herzog – Ceremony on September 21, 2012**

The political philosopher Avishai Margalit will be awarded with this year's Ernst-Bloch-Prize, the sponsorship award goes to Lisa Herzog, a specialist for economic ethics. The top prize is endowed with 10.000 Euros, the sponsorship prize with 2.500 Euros. The mayor of Ludwigshafen by the Rhine, Dr. Eva Lohse, will present both prizes in a ceremony at Ernst-Bloch-Centre on September 21, at 5. p.m.

Every three years, the city of Ludwigshafen by the Rhine awards the Ernst-Bloch-Prize. The prize was first awarded at the occasion of the city's most famous son's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1985. In 2012, the prize is awarded for the 10<sup>th</sup> time. It rewards "outstanding academic or literary works both based on a philosophical attitude and important for a culture of critical examination and discussion of the present. Young authors the activity of whom promises further qualified academic or literary works are liable to receive the sponsorship award." reads an excerpt of the guidelines.

The decision for this year's laureates followed the unanimous vote of the jury, Prof. Dr. Martin Seel (Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main), Dr. Elisabeth von Thadden (Newspaper "Die Zeit") und Dr. Klaus Kufeld (Director Ernst-Bloch-Centre).

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### Top Prize

Prof. Dr. Avishai Margalit was born in 1939 in Afula, Israel. After concluding his studies with a PhD in Philosophy summa cum laude from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, he was lecturer and visiting professor at numerous European and US-American universities, among others in Harvard, Princeton and Stanford, where he was Tanner-Lecturer in 2005. He is Professor Emeritus from Hebrew University, where he had been Shulman-Professor for Philosophy since 1998. Until 2011, Prof. Margalit was George F. Kennan Professor at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, New Jersey.

As in his major work "The Decent Society" (1996), Margalit focuses on Political Philosophy, especially human dignity, Occidentalism, and moral and ethics of memory. His philosophical attitude is mirrored by his long-time activism in the Middle East Peace Process.

#### Recent Publications:

- On Compromise and Rotten Compromises (2009)
- Occidentalism: The West in the Eyes of Its Enemies (with Ian Buruma, 2004)
- The Ethics of Memory (2002)

The jury justified its decision as follows:

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"Avishai Margalit is a political philosopher who turns to the normative tensions of our times in a descriptive manner, while the importance of his own work in the Israeli peace movement is present at all times. His deliberations and findings on the relation of dignity and justice, the ethics of memory, and the question of righteous peace combine to a sober utopia of the best possibilities for reaching a human society."

### Sponsorship Prize

Dr. Lisa Herzog was born in 1983 in Nuremberg, Germany. She studied Economics, Philosophy, and History at Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich and at the University of Oxford. In Oxford she received a PhD in Political Theory for her studies on Adam Smith, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel and the invention of the market. Her current research project for "Habilitation" focuses on individual morality in organizational contexts. Herzog's research interests include economic ethics, the history of economic thought and the invention of the market. She frequently publishes essays on contemporary critical issues in the German feuilleton.

### Publications

- Inventing the Market. Smith, Hegel and Political Theory. Dissertation, 2011 (in printing).
- "Intersubjektive Sanktionen als normative Gründe." in Moral und Sanktion. Eine Kontroverse über die Autorität moralischer Normen, eds. A. Vesper and E. Buddeberg, Frankfurt am Main, Campus, (in printing).

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- "Wer sind wir, wenn wir arbeiten? Soziale Identität im Markt bei Smith und Hegel." Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie 59(6), 835-852, 2011.

The jury justified its decision as follows:

"By scrutinizing the current crisis of capitalism from the perspective of the history of ideas, Lisa Herzog succeeds in sharpening political reasoning powers. The tone of her essays is original, rich in images, and her wording precise. She thereby inspires to open Economics as a subject for both Political Philosophy and the action of civil society."

Former laureates of the Ernst-Bloch-Prize are, among others Prof. Dr. Hans Mayer, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Moltmann, Prof. Dr. Pierre Bourdieu, Prof. Dr. Eric J. Hobsbawm, Prof. Dr. Dan Diner and Prof. Dr. Şeyla Benhabib.

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