



*Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences
Department of Political Science*

Symposium *In Memoriam*: Uwe Becker as Scholar and Colleague

CREA Muziekzaal *Nieuwe Achtergracht 170, 1018 WV Amsterdam*

SESSION I (14:00 – 16:00): Uwe Becker as Scholar

Chair: Brian Burgoon, Professor of International and Comparative Political Economy and Academic Director, Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research

Presentations:

Barbara Vis

Fenner Diemer Lindboom Chair of Political Decision-Making at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam

‘On types, ideal types and typologies: Resolving the confusion once and for all (?)’

Ideal and 'real-world' types are very different, but are most often used interchangeably and therefore confused in the literature. In his work, Uwe Becker worked hard to clarify definitions and resolve this confusion in relation to typologies. To what extent was he successful and how did his effort influence my work in this respect?

Kees van Kersbergen

Professor, Department of Political Science at Aarhus University

‘An open functional approach to welfare state reform’

Uwe Becker was much concerned with the study of comparative welfare states in Europe and elsewhere. I propose an open functional approach to welfare state reform to theorize the role of endogenous and exogenous functional pressures, on how such pressures are translated into reforms, and under which conditions reforms are likely to be successful and in what perspective such success must be understood.

Herman Schwartz

Professor of Political Economy at the University of Virginia

‘Housing finance, pensions, and fertility: What a Beckerian approach might tell us’

In this presentation I look backwards at the themes of the book I co-edited with Uwe, which had an early focus on housing, and forward to the relationship between housing finance systems, pension systems, and fertility in the spirit of seven key characteristics of Uwe Becker's scholarly contribution.

Open Discussion to 16:00

SESSION II (16:15 – 17:15): Uwe Becker as Colleague and Mentor

Chair: Geoffrey Underhill, Chair in International Governance at the University of Amsterdam and Founder-Director of the research programme ‘Political Economy and Transnational Governance’

Esmé Cartens

MA, program manager and researcher at the Nederlandse School voor Openbaar Bestuur (NSOB)

Writing with Uwe: the book ‘Het Obama experiment: Hoop in tegenslag’

Franca van Hooren

Assistant Professor at the VU University Amsterdam

Writing with Uwe: gender, the welfare state, and social policy

Alexandra Vasileva and Ewa Dąbrowska

PhD candidates, University of Amsterdam

Two tales of Uwe as mentor

17:15 Closing Remarks: Geoffrey Underhill

17:30 Reception at *Filmtheater Kriterion*

Roetersstraat 170, 1018 WE Amsterdam

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