



# herbst Academy 2008

## All the Same– What is valid if everything is valid?

Two workshops for students, artists, theorists and others

Our societies are in a crisis of equality – although we are far removed from the goal of egalitarianism: The gap between rich and poor is growing ever larger, with no chance of equal opportunities. Other inequalities are upheld by intolerance, fear, protection of vested rights, and envy. Despite all of this, every ideology finds an equality argument to suit its agenda: Neoliberal desolidarisation campaigns propagate that anyone can achieve social advancement if only they want to. Elsewhere, tolerance becomes synonymous with indifference towards the fate of others or serves to avoid having one's own opinions.

Amidst all of this there appears a call for new, old values that are believed to have been made equal. Values that ensure that social and geographical gaps are upheld, guaranteeing sovereignty of opinion and protection of property. But, on the other hand, values that also organise social life, defining criteria for acting or not acting, for our dealings with each other.

The fast-paced social and economic change in recent years creates a sense that nothing is equal any more, that there is not enough sameness in society, no longer enough things that are valid for everyone, to define a common standard. And, at the same time, that there is too much indifference, that the most varied biographies and identities are indiscriminately made equal, and that we ourselves are increasingly coming to resemble the others and becoming indistinguishable from them.

The herbst Academy of this year's steirischer herbst festival plays with the notion of "All the Same" that, on the one hand, describes a lack of interest that we develop towards the present, the future and the past. And, on the other hand, that demands the same validity: equal rights, respect for other cultural values, ways of life and cultures, making concessions as regards interests that are purely self-serving. As a social mission, as a utopia, and as an everyday demand.



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# Workshop I

05/10 - 10/10/2009

## The Long Memory of Cocaine

**Modernity and the transformations of value and labour**

*By* Max Hinderer (D)  
*With* Jorge Hurtado (BOL) & John Barker (GB)

*In English language*

To us, modernity is not a phenomenon of style, rather it begins with the first colonial conquest, its enrichment and its genocides: Eduardo Galeano's "Open Veins of Latin America" (1973) describes the structural exploitation of Latin American resources and the productive power of its inhabitants through the colonial centuries to the present day. The exploited silver and gold shipped from the colonies to Europe in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries generated an incredible accumulation of capital here, that took place at the same time as the process of "original accumulation" in England described by Marx, and that may be regarded as the advent of the modern capitalist age. But what silver was to the Habsburg monarchs of Spain, cocaine was to the Thatcher / Reagan era. The history and upheavals of the modern age are reflected particularly clearly, however, in the un-relation between the natural coca leaf, millenarian crop plant of the Andes regions, and cocaine, a German pharmaceutical product from the late nineteenth century. Yet it is the long memory of cocaine that today links the colonial exploitation of the silver mines with Wall Street and the producers of immaterial labour.

The workshop offers an economy-critical interpretation of the relation of modernity, the un-relation of coca / cocaine and immaterial labour.

On 10/10/2009, the workshop will visit the steirischer herbst, „Conference of Elective Affinities“ on the topic of "All the Same" (with Krassimira Kruschkowa, Catherine Malabou, Marcus Steinweg, Bernhard Waldenfels and many more).



## Workshop 2

12/10 - 17/10/2009

### Stratagames: A Theatre of Operations

Those in positions of authority expect artistic acts to be clear and conclusive when engaging the political or the social - to present findings, to mediate where learning fails, to teach lessons, to enlighten the ignorant, to speak out for those who can't. And yet this ascription of authority, this expectation of clarity, this consolation of conclusiveness leaves us with a very particular understanding of the capacity of art: works of art need to be transparent, spectators emancipated, issues instructed down.

Daunted by this slightly patronising allure, we are setting out to explore dispositions and situations where the work becomes unclear, divisive, antagonized from within; where its unfolding becomes a negotiation between the artist and spectator; where its effect becomes premised upon an equality of their respective capacities. We are interested in how stratagems, strategies and operations can be employed in the work and called upon in the encounter with the work - in order to unsettle its conclusiveness, to bring into play on either side the strategizing reason, to face off the political cunning of the spectator and the creator.


We will follow the trajectory of strategizing interventions – stratagames, as we call them – through theatrical, artistic, technological, architectural, political practices, drawing upon board games, military concepts, game theories, deus ex machina, illusionist tricks, Ponzi schemes, political hoaxes and the whole wild catalogue of manipulations, machinations, challenges and negotiations that we can think of.

Co-produced by NXTSTP, with the support of the Culture Programme of the European Union

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*In English language*

For more detailed information and biographies  
please visit [www.steirischerherbst.at](http://www.steirischerherbst.at)



# APPLICATION HERBST ACADEMY 2009

Name, Surname .....

Address .....

Phone .....

Email .....

Date of Birth .....

Occupation .....

**Workshop I** **The Long Memory of Cocaine**  
(05/10 - 10/10/2009) 120,00 Euro

**Workshop II** **Stratagames: A Theatre of Operations**  
(12/10 – 17/10/2009) 120,00 Euro

**Please enclose:**

Please enclose: A substantive C.V. and a short description of your expectations of the workshop as well as any material you consider helpful in regards of the workshop's intention. For further information please visit [www.steirischerherbst.at](http://www.steirischerherbst.at).

The participation fee is 120 Euro for each workshop. It includes the workshop and fee admission to all performances, exhibitions, lectures etc. during the workshop. Accommodation is not included. However, steirischer herbst helps finding reasonable (including private) lodgings. Travels costs have to be covered by the participants.

*Each workshop has 5 grants that can be applied for (including lodging & participation fee). Please submit an application for these grants with a brief statement of reasons.*

The workshops are limited to approx. 15 persons and the organisers will select the participants. Registrants may participate in more than one of the events. The spoken language will be English. Deadline for applications is 31/07/2009.

**Please send your application to:**

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