

DESIGNING A TED-STYLE TALK ON ECONOMIC DESIGN AND VALUES

“Speech has allowed the communication of ideas, enabling human beings to work together to build the impossible.”

(Stephen Hawking)

“The only thing that truly matters in public speaking is not confidence, stage presence, or smooth talking. It’s having something worth to say.”

(Chris Anderson, Head of TED)

I. TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Societies depend on institutional regulations that shape their ways of social life. Elements of economic design and market design play an important role in the organization of societies and their economies.

Do the established structures (like markets – free or regulated –, voting systems or labor organization) meet our social requirements and moral standards? How could we reshape and design the institutions in our society to reach social justice and improve welfare?

TED talks have a duration of max. 18 minutes. Their purpose is to share “ideas worth spreading” with a broad audience. After more than 30 years of TED conferences and with over 3 billion views of online TED talks, this format shows that powerful public speaking needs less than 20 minutes.

What is your idea you like to share?

II. SCOPE OF THE SEMINAR

During the seminar, students develop their own “idea worth spreading” which will be presented in a TED-style talk (or video). Students are expected to work in teams of two. Students can apply as teams. We will try to respect students’ wishes when assigning teams. (There is no guarantee we can respect your wishes, but we will do our best. Students can of course also apply individually; we will assign teams in the end.)

We provide a list of possible topics for the seminar. Each topic may be assigned no more than twice. Students may also suggest their own ideas and topics of interest

and use the suggested topics as a source of inspiration. Assignment of binding topics and binding teams will take place in the first two weeks of the seminar.

We expect from you a strong interest for the field of economic design and (moral) values. Students are expected to work self-contained, open-minded and critically on their topic. We encourage every team to work on their talk following their own initiative, ideas and passion.

The introductory meeting will take place on 19 October 2016. There, you can also think about teaming up with another participant. On 13 January 2017, there will be a day of presentations where you share your “idea worth spreading” in a max. 18 minutes talk in TED-style or a max. 18 minutes OpenTED-style video (<https://open.ted.com>). In the former case, and with your consent, we record and analyze your talk together as a group in order to provide a unique feedback and learning opportunity for you. Full attendance is required on that day for successful participation in the seminar!

Seminar papers of 3-5 pages (plus references) have to be handed in by 28 February 2017. Master students have to include two summaries of different length: one with 70-100 words, one with 150-200 words. Presentations of max. 18 minutes are followed by a discussion of the talk/video of about 20 minutes. Your contribution to the discussions will be included in your grading. Grading consists of the seminar paper (30%), your talk/video (50%) and discussion (20%).

Application will be possible via the centralized platform until 11 September 2016. For further questions, please contact Leonie Fütterer (leonie.fuetterer@kit.edu).

III. TOPICS (SUGGESTIONS & SOURCES OF INSPIRATION)

1. Discrimination (set a specific focus, e.g. labor market)
2. Voting (e.g. the Trump Phenomenon/Brexit/Voting Systems...)
3. The Up- and Downsides of Lobbying
4. How much protection to consumers need?
5. Advertising: Curse or Blessing?
6. Achievement-oriented societies and values
7. Presentation of the thoughts of an important thinker in the domain of institutions and moral values (such as C. Gilligan, K. Marx, E. Ostrom, A. Roth, M. Sandel, A. Smith, ...)
8. Gender: Where are we, and where should we be?
9. Privacy or Security?
10. Thoughts on: Google/Apple/Facebook...
11. Trading Organs
12. Towards sustainable fashion?/food?/electronics?