



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO



Fondazione  
CARIPLO



# LAKE COMO SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDIES

## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

### Lake Como School in Advanced Studies -School in Social Sciences

### Self-optimization and Human Enhancement in the Individualized Society:

### Trends and Tendencies\*

Villa del Grumello, Como, June 6 -10, 2022

<https://hris.lakecomoschool.org/>

*\*The School is part of the research project "The technique between enhancement and precariousness", funded by the Catholic University of Milan, Progetto di rilevante interesse per l'Ateneo.*

That we are individuals living in increasingly individualized societies is a well-established fact, as well as one may depict the contemporary subject as the human type who wants to be free in order to become an individual. No more some kind of a *Comune* at the foundation of our societies, but the *Individuo* and his freedom to act as a *privato*.

However, social sciences teach us that the process of individualization does not entail the end of the social, or the vanishing of relations; rather, it implies a deep reconfiguration of human relations in every life sphere: from love to family, from work to friendship, the individual is hovering between the longing for singularization and the need for community. From this perspective, the issues of self-optimization and human enhancement are crucial to understand contemporary changes of human relations. Through the contribution of renowned experts, the field will be examined by applying relevant theoretical contributions in social sciences to significant case-based empirical material. The program will offer a thorough and in-depth analysis of the structural dimensions of processes of self-optimization and human enhancement while at the same time encouraging the student to think about its effects on social relations and processes of subjectivation. In the analysis of self-optimization and human enhancement particular attention will be given to their ethical, social and political implications, as well as to the chances and constraints they pose for the realization of a meaningful conduct of life in the individualized society.



The School



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## COMMITTEES

### School direction:

Mauro Magatti, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano [mauro.magatti@unicatt.it];

Hans-Peter Müller, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin [hpmueller@sowi.hu-berlin.de];

Cesare Silla, Università degli Studi di Urbino 'Carlo Bo' [cesare.silla@uniurb.it]

### Scientific Committee

Peter Fleming, University of Technology Sydney; Nicolas Le Devedec, HEC Montreal;

Mauro Magatti, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano;

Hans-Peter Müller, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin; Anja Röcke, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin;

Cesare Silla, Università degli Studi di Urbino 'Carlo Bo'.

### Teaching Staff:

Alain Ehrenberg, CNRS-Université Paris Descartes; Peter Fleming, University of Technology Sydney;

Vera King, Sigmund-Freud-Institut and Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main;

Stephen Lilley, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield CT;

Mauro Magatti, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore;

Hans-Peter Müller, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin; Anja Röcke, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

The school is addressed to PhD students and postdoctoral researchers across the social sciences (max. 20 participants). Participants will have the opportunity to present their research work related to the topic of the school (both empirical and/or theoretical) during the "Case studies presentation/Seminar discussion" sessions (pitch presentation 15 min). The registration fee is EUR 500,00 (VAT 22% included), inclusive of lectures, course materials, coffee breaks, lunches, excursion, the social dinner and wi-fi connection; travel costs and accommodation are not included.

**If interested, please submit the application (including an updated CV, a letter of intent including a description of research project, and a 500-word bio) by filling the form at**

<https://hris.lakecomoschool.org/application/>

**Application deadline: March 31, 2022.**

**Notification of Acceptance: April 14, 2022.**

**Registration and payment: May 8, 2022.**



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