

## ElZ Seminar

Dear Sir/Madam,

We cordially invite you to attend an ElZ Seminar on **Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.**, at **The Institute of Economics, Zagreb** (1<sup>st</sup> floor meeting room), where **Toni Prug** (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka and King's College London) will deliver the following lecture

# Production of equality and analysis of social forms: profit, regulation, and plan

### Summary

The lecture introduces the production of equality as a separate scientific object. Instead of viewing equality as the result of redistribution or reduction of inequality, an analysis of social forms shows that it is actively produced through planned public systems, such as healthcare, education, welfare, sports, culture, transport, and school meals. New national account aggregates have been developed to monitor various forms of public production and changes in GDP composition. Although an empirical analysis of EU countries from 1995 to 2023 reveals a significant decline in systemic production and growth in egalitarian production, it cannot be unambiguously concluded that equality has increased in that period. Further research is needed on the impact of profit logic on public systems, their class and spatial distributions, as well as connecting the new aggregates with the literature on inequalities in the outcomes of egalitarian production. The applicability of the methodology at the mid-level and the composition of public production chains are illustrated in the report on the first year of the project “Mapping of for-profit and public healthcare in Zagreb” and the reports of the HRZZ project “Digital data, infrastructure, and development”. The lecture emphasizes the long history of public production and the central role of the legal system, materialized through specific laws, through which various modes of production and consequent social relations are socio-legally shaped.

### About the lecturer

Toni Prug is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka (Department of Cultural Studies) and a research affiliate at King's College London (Department of International Development). He is a co-author of the book *The Political Economy of Digital Monopolies: Contradictions and Alternatives to Data Commodification* (2021, Bristol University Press). He is a collaborator on the HRZZ project “Digital data, infrastructure, and development” and project leader of the interdisciplinary research project “Equality factory – healthcare”, which focuses on access to healthcare. He completed his PhD at Queen Mary University of London in 2014 with a thesis on egalitarian production and the role of the state. He is a member of the Association for Heterodox Economics.