

Celebrating the Work of
Georg Krücken

PROGRAM

Monday, September 29, 2025

University of Kassel, Gießhaus

International Symposium
Taking Actors Seriously: Empowerment and Limitations
in the Agency of Individuals, Organizations, and States

08:30 – Arrival & Coffee

09:00 – Opening and Welcome

Guido Bünstorf, Raimund Hasse, and Anna Kosmützky (Symposium Convenors)

09:15-10:45 – Individual Actors

Frank Nullmeier: Welfare states and the agency of individuals

Hannah Mormann: The professional making of individuals

Raimund Hasse: William Whytes's organization man and his successors

10:45-11:15 – Coffee Break

11:15-12:45 – Organizational Actors

Francisco O. Ramirez: Are universities becoming organizational actors? Exploring indicators cross-nationally

Christine Musselin: Empirical and theoretical dead ends of university actorhood?

Frank Meier: After organizational actorhood: What's next?

12:45-13:30 – Lunch Break

13:30-15:00 – The State as an Actor

Nils Brunsson: States as organizations – 500 years of actorhood

Uwe Schimank: The modern state as a society-shaping actor – torn between hubris and defeatism

Anja P. Jakobi: A call of duty? Universities and the military

15:00-15:30 – Coffee Break

15:30-16:30 – Cross-Actor Linkages and Relations

Kerstin Sahlin & Linda Wedlin: Ecologies of translation: Conceptualising the diversity of actors and linkages

Gili S. Drori & Achim Oberg: Old organizational vessels, new cultural wine:

How university museums engage with contemporary social debates

17:00-19:00

Community Memorial

Celebrating Georg Krücken as a Scholar, Teacher, Colleague, and Friend

With contributions from, among others, Guido Bünstorf, Gili S. Drori, Rob Hagendijk, Michael Hölscher, Hokyung Hwang, Anna Kosmützky, John W. Meyer, Renate E. Meyer, Justin J. W. Powell, Walter W. Powell, Rahul Putty, Dhruv Raina, Peter Weingart (open for further contributions).

Dinner Speech

David John Frank: Exaltation and ruin: The university as institution, organization, and actor