

Einladung zur / Invitation to the

# 3. PEP WEIHNACHTS- VORLESUNG

11. DEZEMBER 2019 | 18 UHR | HÖRSAAL A | ESA 1



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

**FAKULTÄT**

FÜR GEISTESWISSENSCHAFTEN

FACHBEREICH PHILOSOPHIE

# PROFESSOR KAUSHIK BASU

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK

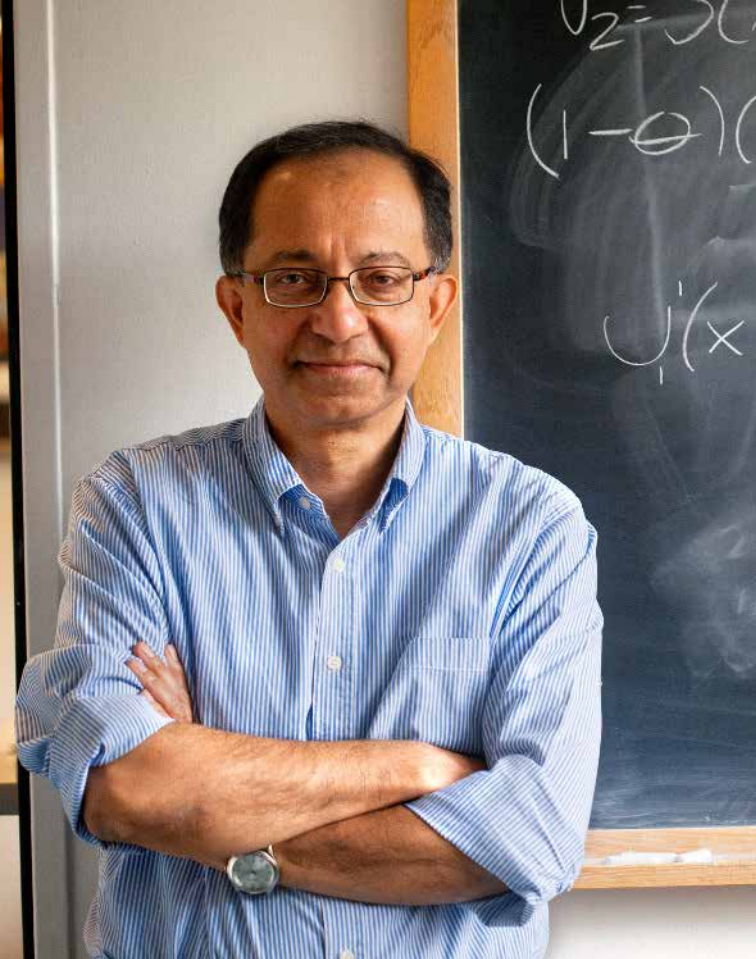
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Kaushik Basu is Professor of Economics and Carl Marks Professor of International Studies at Cornell University. He was from 2012 to 2016 the Chief Economist of the World Bank, and from 2009 to 2012 the Chief Economic Adviser of the Government of India.

Basu has published extensively in leading economics journals on a range of topics, from development and welfare economics to game theory, industrial organization and the law. He is the author of numerous books, including *Beyond the Invisible Hand: Groundwork for a New Economics* (Princeton University Press and Penguin, 2011) and *The Republic of Beliefs: A New Approach to Law and Economics* (Princeton University Press, 2018). His books have been translated into Italian, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, Bengali and Japanese.

Basu has, over the years, been a columnist for BBC News Online and the *Indian Express*, and currently writes a popular column for *Project Syndicate*. He is also author of a play, "Crossings at Benaras Junction" (published in *The Little Magazine*, 2005).

Basu has written about the importance of good moral qualities for building a good society, arguing that honesty, trustworthiness and integrity are important qualities not just as ends in themselves but for economic growth and development.



**Mittwoch, 11. Dez. 2019, 18–20 Uhr**  
**Hauptgebäude, Hörsaal A**  
**Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1**

# POLITICS, POWER AND THE LAW

## From David Hume to John Nash

A popular question social scientists ask is why laws are often so poorly implemented and, at times, totally overlooked. This lecture asks the reverse and, in many ways, a philosophically harder question, namely, why are so many laws obeyed? The easy answer, that they are obeyed because the police and the magistrate punish those who disobey immediately opens up the question why the police and the magistrate behave in such a manner? In answering these questions, we are led to a line of argument that can be traced back to David Hume. The power of the law and also the power of the political tyrant resides, in the end, in our beliefs about one another – what others will do to you if you violate expectations. With the arrival of game theory, we are able to give more formal content to Hume's hypothesis. That is what this lecture will do and illustrate the theory with examples from history and contemporary policymaking.



IN COOPERATION WITH THE LECTURE SERIES  
»HAMBURG LECTURES IN LAW AND ECONOMICS«  
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**KONTAKT UND ANSPRECHPARTNER**

Universität Hamburg  
Fakultät für Geisteswissenschaften

Fachbereich Philosophie  
Überseeing 35  
22297 Hamburg  
[www.philosophie.uni-hamburg.de](http://www.philosophie.uni-hamburg.de)

**PROF. DR. MATTHEW BRAHAM**

Professur für Praktische Philosophie  
[matthew.braham@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:matthew.braham@uni-hamburg.de)

**STUDIENBÜRO**

[philosophie@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:philosophie@uni-hamburg.de)  
Tel. 040 42838-4714

# THE LECTURES

Our precarious times call for a rethinking and renewal of the shared underpinnings of an open, diverse, and inclusive democratic society. To support this process, the Institute of Philosophy offers public lectures with leading thinkers who are confronting the challenges and chances that we are facing in all dimensions of life. The idea of these lectures is to develop a culture of reason, reflection, and responsibility by bringing fundamental global debates to the heart of the campus. The series is about connecting philosophical enquiry to pragmatic action.

## THE SPEAKERS

- 2019: Kaushik Basu (Cornell University)  
“Politics, Power and the Law:  
From David Hume to John Nash”
- 2018: Onora O’Neill (University of Cambridge)  
“Rethinking the Ethics of Communication”
- 2017: Jason Brennan (Georgetown University)  
“Why Politics Makes Us Mean and Dumb”



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