

Self-optimization and Human Enhancement in the Individualized Society: Trends and Tendencies

Lake Como School of Advanced Studies, June 6-10, 2022

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

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*. No more "laws" for action, but "freedom" of action. No more the "political animal" but the "homo oeconomicus" as the subject of history, and, last but not least, no more "citizens" of the City (Polis), rather "consumers" in the global cities (cosmo-poleis), searching for self-improvement and self-realization but often coping with the delusions of authenticity and autonomy.

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.

Download the call for participation (pdf) of the school: [callHRIS](#)

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Program

The final program is now available, download it here: [2_6_Final_LCSinSS22_schedule](#)

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Committees

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