

Press Release 15 March 2011

Jürgen Kocka, Professor at Humboldt University in Berlin, is awarded Holberg Prize 2011.

The Holberg Prize is worth 565.000 Euro /765.000 USD and will be awarded 8. June in Bergen in Norway.

Excerpts from the citation of the Holberg Prize Academic Committee:

”**Jürgen Kocka** is an outstanding historian who effected a paradigm shift in German historiography by opening it up to related social sciences and establishing the importance of cross-national comparative approaches. His works represent a monumental achievement in the histories of labour, the European bourgeoisie, and corporations, exploring many aspects of social stratification and the continuously changing nature of work.”

“Kocka has had a major impact on core theoretical and methodological issues in historical studies; he has also addressed questions whose scope is not only historiographical but ethical, touching on the political and cultural identity of today’s Germany and its role in Europe both before and after re-unification. For example, after the events of 1989 he took up the notion of civil society and applied it both theoretically and empirically to the vision of a modern secularized society without an authoritarian state. Currently he is writing a book on capitalism and its development over the last two hundred years with a focus on recent changes in capitalist structures.

Kocka is a public intellectual whose engagement with memory construction and the politics of history promotes enlightened and democratic institutions, and leads him to struggle against exclusions, privileges and inequalities. Jürgen Kocka is among the most influential historians working today.”

Short biography:

Jürgen Kocka is a historian of modern Germany and Europe. He is particularly interested in comparative approaches, social history and cooperation with the social sciences. He was born in Haindorf/Bohemia (now Hejnice, Czech Republic) in 1941. He is married to Urte Kocka, neé Schild. He received his M. A. in Political Science from UNC, Chapel Hill, in 1965, his PhD (Dr. phil.) from Free University of Berlin in 1968 and his Habilitation in Modern History from the University of Münster in 1972. Presently he is a Permanent Fellow of the International Research Center “Work and Human Lifecycle in Global History” at the Humboldt University Berlin and Senior Fellow of the Center for Research on Contemporary History Potsdam. As a Visiting Professor he teaches regularly at UCLA.

The Holberg Prize, which was established by the Norwegian Parliament in 2003, is awarded annually by the Board of the Ludvig Holberg Memorial Fund. Holberg Prize is for outstanding scholarly work in the academic fields of the arts and humanities, social sciences, law and theology. Holberg Prize Laureates: Natalie Zemon Davis

(2010), Ian Hacking (2009), Fredric R. Jameson (2008), Ronald Dworkin (2007), Shmuel N. Eisenstadt (2006), Jürgen Habermas (2005), Julia Kristeva (2004).

For more information and to download photos of the prize winner:

www.holbergprisen.no

Information about the prize/ award:

Professor Jan Fridthjof Bernt, Chair of the Board of Ludvig Holberg Memorial Fund

Jan.F.Bernt@jur.uib.no

m: (+47) 55 58 95 80

For practical information:

Trine Kleven, Project Manager for the Holberg Prize, trine.kleven@holbergprisen.no.

t: (+47) 55 58 69 92, m: (+47) 95 94 01 14