



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

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Eminent Scholar on Marxism Today

Is Marxism dead? Or could this century-old ideology and some of its concepts such as "alienation" and "exploitation" be applicable in this day and age? What has remained of Marxism after the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union?

Prof. Jon Elster, a well-known analytical Marxist teaching at the University of Chicago, will deliver a public lecture entitled "Marxism Today" at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in Shatin on November 15 (Tuesday) at 4:30 p.m. at the Shaw College Lecture Theatre. Interested parties are welcome to attend the lecture.

"The flaws of Communism were visible and massively denounced by many Marxists, including myself, long before 1989," said Prof. Elster – the Edward L. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at the University of Chicago and author of *Making Sense of Marx* (1985) – who will arrive in Hong Kong for a week-long visit on Sunday (November 13).

However, the fall of Communism should not be taken to have discredited Marxism as a philosophical, economic and historical theory, he argued.

As the Wei Lun Visiting Professor, Prof. Elster will also talk about "The Constitution-Making Process" basing on his recent studies in Eastern Europe. This second public lecture will be delivered on November 17 (Thursday) at 4:30 p.m. at the Auditorium, Ho Sin Hang Engineering Building, Chinese University.

Prof. Elster has been the Director (with others) of the Center for the Study of Constitutionalism in Eastern Europe, University of Chicago Law School since 1990. He edited *Studies in Constitution-Making in Eastern Europe* and *The Round Table Talks in Eastern Europe* (forthcoming).

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It will be the first visit to Hong Kong by the 54-year-old Norwegian-born professor who is world-renowned for his contribution to the rational choice and decision-making theory in political science. Prof. Elster is also known for his unique multi-disciplinary perspective and his unusual breadth of knowledge – which crosses the fields of philosophy, political science, history, technical economics, sociology and law.

He is a prolific writer – having written 14 books and edited 11 volumes; and has held teaching and research positions in various prestigious academic institutions in Norway, France, America and the United Kingdom.

Prof. Elster is a member/fellow of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Academia Europaea and the British Academy; and a recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship.

He is currently Research Director for the Institute for Social Research, Oslo, Norway and Director (with others) of the recently-formed Chicago Center for the Study of Democracy.

The Wei Lun Visiting Professorship/Fellowship Scheme at the Chinese University was established through the generous donation by the Wei Lun Foundation Ltd. Eminent scholars from around the world are regularly invited to the University to give public lectures and academic seminars.

For press enquiries, please contact Mrs. Shirley Kwok of the Chinese University's Information & Public Relations Office at 609-8897.