The consensus is overwhelming: everybody seems to agree on the need for more transparency. From President Obama to whistleblower Edward Snowden, from CEO annual addresses to WikiLeaks – all converge on the point of transparency.

But what exactly does the increasing demand for transparency stand for? What are its historical roots and why has it become such a powerful catchword in today’s hyper-mediated economies of information?

This workshop scrutinizes the predominantly positive circulation of the term across diverse areas of society, be they political practices, institutional organization, economic systems or morals orders and asks why it has become the new imperative of a supposedly post-ideological age.
Organization:
Emmanuel Alloa & Dieter Thomä
(School for Humanities and Social Sciences, Universität St. Gallen)

Open to all interested participants upon previous registration:
Emmanuel.Alloa@unisg.ch

Thursday May 14th 2015

Location: Vadiana-Bibliothek, Notkerstrasse 23, St. Gallen

14.-14.30 Welcome and Introduction

14.30-15.30 Manfred Schneider (Bochum)
The Dream of Transparency. Aquinas, Rousseau, Sartre

15.30-16.30 Thomas Docherty (Warwick)
On private life and the scrutiny of responsibility

16.30-17.00 Break

17.00-18.45 KEYNOTE
Amitai Etzioni (Washington)
Is Transparency the Best of all Disinfectants?
A Communitarian Approach

Friday May 15th 2015

Location: Universität St. Gallen, Campus, Building 23
[Room 23-101]
8.45 Opening words

9.00-10.00 Sandrine Baume (Lausanne)
Transparency. The Birth of a Successful Political Metaphor

10.00-11.00 Miran Božovič (Ljubljana)
Jeremy Bentham’s Panopticon: Transparency and Opacity

11.00-11.15 Break

11.15-12.15 Martin Hartmann (Luzern)
Transparency and Trust

12.15-13.30 Lunch
[Room 23-203]

13.30-14.30 Dieter Mersch (Zurich)
Obfuscating Transparency. The Paradoxes of Participation

14.30-14.45 Break

14.45-15.45 Vincent Kaufmann (HSG)
From Jenny to North West. The Invention of Reality TV

15.45-16.30 Concluding Discussion

“Sunlight is said to be the best of all disinfectants.”
- Louis Brandeis