



# OECONOMIA

A FILM BY CARMEN LOSMANN

**PRESS BOOK**

## **PRODUCED BY**

Petrolino Film GmbH  
In coproduction with  
ZDF/ 3sat

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# OECONOMIA

**A FILM BY**

Carmen Losmann  
Documentary, Germany 2020, 89 Minutes

**WORLD PREMIERE AT SECTION FORUM AT 70TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL BERLIN**

## SCREENINGS AT BERLINALE

Feb 21	9.30 pm	CinemaxX 4 <i>World Premiere</i>
Feb 22	9.00 pm	Cubix 9
Feb 23	6.30 pm	Colosseum 1
Feb 25	4.00 pm	CinemaxX 6 <i>Press screening</i>
Mar 01	4.30 pm	Arsenal 1

## TECHNICAL DATA

Original title:	OECONOMIA
Genre:	Documentary
Country of production:	Germany
Year of production:	2020
Length:	89 Minutes
Shooting format:	4k
Screening format:	2k DCP 1,85:1
Language(s):	German, English
Subtitles:	English
Color or b/w:	color
Production Company:	Petrolia Film GmbH
Co-Producer:	ZDF/ 3sat

## CREW

Directed by Carmen Losmann  
Written by Carmen Losmann  
Cinematography Dirk Lütter  
Edited by Henk Drees,  
Carmen Losmann  
Sound Peter Rösner, Till Röllinghoff,  
Etienne Haug,  
Detlev Schmelzenbach  
Composer Peter Rösner  
Editing Consultant Christiane Büchner  
Motion Graphics  
and Title Design Michael Deeg  
Line Producer Mareike Wegener  
Production Manager Anne Lessnick  
Post Production  
Coordinator Tolke Palm, Niko Remus

Produced by Hannes Lang,  
Mareike Wegener  
Support Film und Medienstiftung  
NW, Kuratorium Junger  
Deutscher Film, German  
Federal Film Fund,  
Federal Government  
Commissioner for Culture  
and Media  
Development Support Gerd Ruge project  
scholarship  
German Distributor Neue Visionen Filmverleih  
World Sales Deckert Distribution



## LOGLINE

OECONOMIA makes visible the rules of the contemporary global capitalist game that systematically preconditions growth, deficits and concentrations of

wealth. This logic of seemingly ceaseless accumulation is revealed layer by layer in this episodic documentary.

## SYNOPSIS

Our economic system has made itself invisible and eludes understanding. In recent years, we have often had little more than a diffuse and unsatisfactory feeling that something is going wrong. But what? The documentary film OECONOMIA reveals the rules of the game of capitalism and makes visible in an episodic narrative structure that paradoxically the economy only grows when we are in debt, that profits are only possible when we are in debt. Beyond the distanced phrases of media coverage, which ultimately make it impossible to understand the monstrous logic behind the basic

structures of our everyday lives, OECONOMIA sets out with great perspicacity and lucid stringency to break things down to the simple rules, to illuminate the capitalism of the present. A zero-sum game is discernible, a game that places us and our entire world in the logic of an endlessly perpetual increase in capital - no matter how much the cost. A game that is played to the point of total exhaustion and is perhaps nearing its end.





## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I received the Gerd Ruge Scholarship for this project in 2012, I had no idea what kind of journey this film would send me on. It began with harmless curiosity: after the financial crisis, I wanted to understand the phenomena of our economic system. However, my narrative attempt to make the connections of capitalism understandable through its players proved difficult, or even impossible. This meant that I was challenged to approach the question of what the driving forces behind economic growth, debt and wealth concentration actually consist of through other paths and images.

In developing the image concept, it was important to Dirk Lütter and me to stage both the inaccessibility and the glass transparency of a world designed according to economic parameters: a world shaped by verticals and horizontals with its reflecting, glittering facades and squeaking access restrictions. With the help of the graphic computer layer, which consists of a constantly repeating raster matrix and is superimposed on the film images in long fades, I wanted to expand this effect



even further. What becomes visible is a metric that is reminiscent of a maths booklet and lays itself on us and the world like a fine, invisible, yet all-determining ratio - broken down into individual units that only relate to one another in a calculating way.

In the course of working on this film project I realized that I had to find other narrative ways to approach certain economic contexts. My interview partners from the business world seemed to me to be too strongly embedded in an ideological frame, within which my questions had no place and weren't understood. And so we staged the situation of a reworked Monopoly game in the public space of a pedestrian zone with a circle of people dedicated to the analysis of capitalist economy and money production. These scenes in the pedestrian zone run through the film like a thread. At the same time, the actors act like a chorus of Greek ancient theatre, expressing to the audience what the main characters of the play - my interview partners - were unable to say.

The aesthetic-dramaturgical decision to establish myself as a directing character at the beginning of the film and to guide me through the film in the form of research telephone calls only became apparent during the montage process. In addition, the stylistic device of the telephone calls served me as an artistic container format in which I could both sufficiently alienate conversations not intended for publication and adequately condense individual research fragments to weave the film into a coherent whole.

All in all, I see OECONOMIA as a continuation of my cinematic work, which in my previous film *Work Hard Play Hard* ended in the unspoken question: What makes companies strive for permanent profitable growth?

## THE DIRECTOR: CARMEN LOSMANN

The German filmmaker Carmen Losmann was born in 1978. After three years of study in Cologne and England (Bachelor of Arts Marketing) she joined the Academy of Media Arts in Cologne and graduated with a diploma in film. Her debut film - the feature-length documentary *Work Hard Play Hard* - deals with the effects of modern human resource management and has been awarded numerous prizes, including the prestigious German Grimme Prize 2014. She received the Gerd Ruge Project Scholarship for the documentary *OECONOMIA*. Carmen Losmann lives and works in Cologne and Templin.

### FILMOGRAPHY (Selection):

*WORK HARD - PLAY HARD*, documentary, Germany 2011

Produced by HUPE Film und Fernsehproduktion,  
in co-production ZDF/ARTE (Editor: Anne Even),  
funded by the Film und Medienstiftung NRW, World

premiere: DOK Leipzig, International Competition (2011)

#### Awards:

Grimme Prize 2014

Predicate particularly valuable, FBW, 2012

FIPRESCI Prize, DOK Leipzig 2011

Prize of the Ecumenical Jury, DOK Leipzig 2011

Healthy Workplaces Award, DOK Leipzig 2011

Golden Key, Documentary Film Festival Kassel 2011

*UNLIKE EVERYONE*, documentary film, Germany 2009, co-directed by Dirk Lütter

World premiere: Short Film Festival Oberhausen, German Competition (2011)

## PROFILE PRODUCTION COMPANY

Established in 2012, PETROLIO is a production cooperative founded by the filmmakers Hannes Lang, Carmen Losmann, and Mareike Wegener. OECONOMIA is PETROLIO's second feature-length documentary production following I WANT TO SEE THE MANAGER.



SEEK  
VALUE  
ANY  
WHERE