

**Final report on the
Phoenix Summer University 2006
Gaming, Austria**

Matteo Olivieri^{1,2}

The Summer University in Gaming is a wonderful opportunity for students who wish to gain a better understanding of the world in which we live. It granted me an extraordinary insight in philosophy and ethics, which I needed in order to complete my background in Economics.

During these two weeks we dealt with the most important authors of the Western Thought starting with Greek philosophers up to the modern centuries. I really enjoyed studying the works of Plato and Aristotle, as well as Agustin and Thomas Aquinas. I discovered a world completely new to me and a new way of thinking about problems. The Summer University helped me to better understand the world, by letting me think about concepts such as truth, reason, faith and human dignity.

The interdisciplinary background of students, the extraordinary motivation of lecturers and the opportunity to confront ourselves with people coming from different countries, cultures and religions allowed me to deal with current themes from a broader point of view. Lectures helped me in making clear sophisticated philosophical and religious concepts and it granted me the key values for interpreting the present world.

Besides lectures, I also had the opportunity to immerse myself in the Austrian culture and social life by visiting Vienna and the surrounding of Gaming. I really found it amazing, also in order to get a deeper knowledge of the role of Austria in the constitution of a European spirit. All others extra curricular activities helped me to understand more clearly the deeply roots of leadership, friendship and companionship.

¹ Matteo Olivieri, the Mariano Turano PhD candidate in Management Sciences - Dept. of Business Economics at the University of Calabria at Arcavacata - Italy; the Roberto Marrama Research Associate in Finance at I.P.E.-Istituto per Ricerche ed Attivita' Educative, Naples (Italy) and the Research Fellow in Economics and Management at Centro Italo-Tedesco Villa Vigoni, Lovenjo di Menaggio (Italy).

² Paper delivered at the 2006 Summer Seminar "The Study of Western Institutions" - Phoenix Institute Europe Foundation at Gaming, Austria.

I am deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the Summer University and I would really like to help in the promotion of its activities in order to let other people know the extraordinary usefulness of such experience and the great professional efficiency of the Phoenix Institute.

With this final report I want to acknowledge your highly relevant contribution to my life and I definitely encourage the Phoenix Institute to further promote its activities in order to make the world a more pleasant place to live.

Sincerely

Matteo Olivieri