Global Financial Markets: Architecture and Sociology

What is the question we always ask about financial markets? We want to know how to invest in them, to play them, to avoid losing money in them. We surely would like to understand them—in terms of what they are made for and good for—investment and speculation. With this talk, I want to convince you that it is also interesting to ask another question: What is a financial market like internally? How does it function as a system of global communication rather than as an investment opportunity? Is a financial market in some sense a coordinated collective form? In answering these questions, I examine the world’s largest and most liquid market. I look at the scopic media at the center of trading, features of the global conversation market makers are conducting, and at attention and perception as a specific, technologically fashioned mechanism of integration.

Friday, January 18th, 2013
12:00pm-1:30pm
SOC Center (HSH 201)

Light refreshments will be provided.