International Conference: Objectivity and Truth in Cassirer’s Philosophy of Culture and Philosophy of Science

Organizers

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Speakers

Elio Antonucci (Universität zu Köln)  
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Massimiliano D’Acconti (Università di Bologna)  
Luigi Filieri (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz)  
Jacob Hesse (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)  
Isabel Jacobs (Queen Mary University of London)  
Katherina Kinzel (Universiteit Utrecht)  
Luigi Laino (Università degli studi di Napoli Federico II)  
Andrea Reichenberger (Universität Siegen & FernUniversität in Hagen)  
Domenico Schneider (Technische Universität Braunschweig)  
Alex Seuthe (Technische Universität Dortmund)  
Benedetta Spigola (Università degli studi Roma Tre)  
Philippe Stamenkovic (Aix-Marseille Universität)  
Noah Stemeroff (Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn)  
Katherine Ward (Bucknell University)  
Elisabeth Theresia Widmer (Universität Wien)

Keynotes

Sebastian Luft (Marquette University)  
Samantha Matherne (Harvard University)

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▪ Admission is free  
▪ Everybody is welcome  
▪ Conference Languages are German and English  
▪ Registration is mandatory  
▪ Please register before September 30 (2021) at  
hiw.kuleuven.be/cassirerworkshop  
▪ Zoom credentials will be sent individually and shortly before the event

Flyer and Illustrations by Christian May  
nichtchristianmay.com
There is no doubt that this question, which Cassirer found indicative of the European Zeitgeist of the first decades of the twentieth century, also pervades Western culture today. In times of fake news, conspiracy theories, alternative facts, and science denial, as well as the rise of political myth and the erosion of expertise and democratic institutions, doubt about the possibility of objectivity and truth is a defining characteristic of contemporary culture. Hence, if we follow Cassirer, philosophy has once again a crucial societal duty to fulfill: the duty to safeguard some notion of objectivity and of truth against epistemic and cultural relativism, skepticism, and indifference.

This conference aims to reconsider the enduring relevance of Cassirer’s philosophy in view of this challenge. The Philosophy of Symbolic Forms was after all an ambitious attempt to radically widen and diversify the meaning of objectivity without forfeiting its claims to universality or its firm footing in transzendente Wissenschaftstheorie als Vermittlerin zwischen physikalischen Theorien? Alex Seuthe (Dortmund)
12:45-13:00 Coffee break
13:00-13:45 The Influence of Relativity Theory on the Philosophy of Symbolic Forms Luigi Laino (Naples)
13:45-14:30 Objectivity Relativized: A Comparative Study between Cassirer and Philipp Frank (Milwaukee)
14:30-15:30 Mid-day break
15:30-16:15 Art’s vs Language’s Objectivity: Cassirer on Symbol-Poetic Mimetic Luigi Filieri (Mainz)
16:15-17:00 Language and Objectivity - A Critical Assessment of Several Aspects of Cassirer’s Philosophy of Language Jacob Hesse (Bochum)
17:00-17:30 Coffee break
17:30-18:23 "Function Concepts" and "Formal Concepts": Cassirer on Objectivity in the "Cultural Sciences" Katherina Knizl (Unrecht)
18:23-19:00 Normativity and Objectivity in Cassirer’s An Essay on Man Elisabeth Theresa Widmer (Vienna)
19:00-19:15 Coffee break
19:15-20:30 On the Foundations of the Prose of the Pure Form of the True in Scientific Theories: A Meditation über Cassirer aus pragmatischer Sicht Sebastian Luft (Milwaukee)
20:30-21:00 Drinks & Roundtable

Friday, October 8
11:00-12:35 Welcome Tobias Endres & Simon Truwant (Braunschweig)
11:35-12:00 The Role of Science. Cassirer’s Symbolic Idealism against the Modernity of Several Aspects of Cassirer’s Philosophy of Language Dominico Schneider (Braunschweig)
12:00-13:15 Cassirer, Field Theory, and the Methodology of Mathematical Physics Noah Stemeroff (Bonn)
12:45-13:00 Coffee break
13:00-13:45 From the Arithmetization of Mathematics to the Development of Numerical Analysis: A Fresh Look at Cassirer’s and Felix Klein’s Structuralist Approach Andrea Reichenberger (Paderborn)
13:45-14:30 Between Relativization and Functionalization: Cassirer’s Account of Objectivity and its Developments in Contemporary Philosophy of Science Francesca Biagioli (Turin)
14:30-15:30 Mid-day break
15:30-16:15 Between Myth and Truth: Cassirer and Kojève on Determinism Isabel Jacobs (London)
16:15-17:00 The Structures of Meaning in the Evaluation of the Role of Science. Cassirer’s Symbolic Idealism against Cultural Relativism Massimiliano D’Acconti (Bologna)
17:00-17:30 Coffee break
17:30-18:15 Being Responsible to and for Culture Katherine Ward (Lewisburg)
18:15-19:00 The Correlation between Objectivity and Subjectivity in Science and the Problem of Human Self-Understanding Elia Antenucci (Cologne)
19:00-19:15 Coffee break
19:15-20:30 Cassirer on Art, Objectivity, and Self-Knowledge Samantha Matherne (Cambridge, Massachusetts)
20:30-21:30 Concluding remarks - Drinks & Roundtable