

International Symposium
NETWORKS AND TRANSFORMATIONS OF LOGICAL EMPIRICISM:
THE VIENNA CIRCLE IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

Date: September 2-5, 2007

Location: Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, University of Helsinki, Fabianinkatu 24

Organizers:

Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, University of Helsinki: www.helsinki.fi/collegium

Vienna Circle Institute, University of Vienna: www.univie.ac.at/ivc/

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Program Committee:

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The rise of scientific (analytic) philosophy since the turn of the twentieth century is linked to the philosophical interaction between, on the one hand, Ernst Mach, the Vienna Circle around Moritz Schlick and Otto Neurath, the Berlin Group (Hans Reichenbach, Carl G. Hempel), and the Prague Group (Rudolf Carnap, Philipp Frank), and, on the other, philosophers and scientists in Denmark (Niels Bohr, Joergen Joergensen), Finland (Eino Kaila, Georg Henrik von Wright and their disciples), Norway (Arne Næss and his students), and Sweden (Åke Petzäll, the journal *Theoria* and a younger generation of philosophers in Uppsala). In addition, the pure theory of law of Hans Kelsen achieved wide dissemination in the Nordic countries (through, for example, Alf Ross). One of the key events in the relations between the Central European philosophers and those of the Nordic countries was the Second International Congress for the Unity of Science which was arranged in Copenhagen in 1936.

Besides considering the interactions of these groups, the symposium will also pay special attention to their interactions, in the context of the Cold War period following the Second World War, with the so-called Third Vienna Circle and with the Forum Alpbach/Austrian College around Viktor Kraft and Bela Juhos (along with Ludwig Wittgenstein and Paul Feyerabend), where the issues of (philosophical and scientific) realism and “psychologism”—the relationship between psychology and philosophy—were matters of controversy.

By comparison with the more extensively investigated and better known transatlantic transfer and transformation of “positivism” and logical empiricism, the developments outlined above remain neglected and marginalized topics in historiography. The symposium aims to reveal the remarkable continuity of the philosophical enlightened “Nordic Connection”. We intend to shed light on this forgotten communication and to reconstruct these hidden scholarly networks from an historical and logical point of view, thereby evaluating their significance for today’s research.

Speakers include: Michael von Boguslawski (Helsinki), Jan Faye (Copenhagen), Leila Haaparanta (Tampere), Carl-Göran Heidegren (Lund), Jaakko Hintikka (Boston), Marja Jalava (Helsinki), Simo Knuuttila (Helsinki), Juha Manninen (Helsinki/Oulu), Thomas Mormann (San Sebastian), Elisabeth Nemeth (Vienna), Ilkka Niiniluoto (Helsinki), Jan von Plato (Helsinki), Arto Siitonen (Helsinki), Matti Sintonen (Helsinki), Friedrich Stadler (Helsinki/Vienna), Michael Stoeltzner (Wuppertal), Johan Strang (Helsinki), Michael Thaler (Salzburg), Fredrik W. Thue (Oslo), Thomas Uebel (Manchester) and Risto Vilkkio (Helsinki)

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Confirmed and Preliminary (in brackets) titles of the lectures:

Opening: *Ilkka Niiniluoto, Juha Sihvola, Friedrich Stadler*

Jan Faye: Niels Bohr and the Vienna Circle

Carl-Göran Heidegren: Positivism before Logical Positivism in Nordic Philosophy

Leila Haaparanta: Carnap's "Ueberwindung der Metaphysik" and its Reception in Finland

Marja Jalava: The Early Reception of Mach in the North

Juha Manninen: Eino Kaila in the Vienna Circle Debates

Thomas Mormann: (Ernst Cassirer vs. Konrad Marc-Wogau)

Elisabeth Nemeth: Arne Naess and Ecological Economy

Ilkka Niiniluoto: Kaila's Critique of Vitalism

Jan von Plato and Michael von Boguslawski: Young Ketonen and His Supreme Logical Discovery

Arto Siitonen: (on Cassirer or Reichenbach in the Northern Context)

Matti Sintonen: Psychology as Biology: Kaila's Mechanistic Principle

Friedrich Stadler: Arne Naess - Dogmas and Problems of Empiricism

Michael Stoeltzner: From Bohr's Positivism to Formal Teleology. On the Different Voices in Eino Kaila's "Terminalkausalität"

Johan Strang: "Theoria" and the Logical Empiricists

Michael Thaler: (Hans Kelsen)

Fredrik W. Thue: Empiricism, Pragmatism, Behaviorism: Arne Naess and the Growth of American Styled Social Research in Norway after World War II

Thomas Uebel: The Nature and Status of Scientific Metatheory. The Debate between Otto Neurath and Åke Petzäll

Risto Vilkkö: (on Georg Henrik von Wright)

Special session:

Jaakko Hintikka and Simo Knuuttila

Conversation on the Schilpp Volume *The Philosophy of Jaakko Hintikka* (2006)