



## International Symposium

# Learning to be Human for Global Times: Challenges and Opportunities from the Perspective of Contemporary Philosophy of Religion

April 7 – 8, 2017  
University of Vienna, Austria  
(in English Language)

### *Coordinators*

- Mag. Dr. Brigitte Buchhammer and Univ.-Prof. i.R.
- Dr. Herta Nagl-Docekal, Department of Philosophy, University of Vienna

### *Institutional Cooperation*

- Interdisciplinary Research Platform: 'Religion and Transformation in Contemporary Society', University of Vienna
- Austrian Academy of Sciences
- The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy, Washington, D.C.

### *Venue*

**Campus of the University of Vienna, Spitalgasse 2, Hof 2.8  
Seminarraum des Instituts für Ethik und Recht in der Medizin (= Kapelle)**

The topic of the symposium refers to the **XXIV. World Congress of Philosophy**, to be held in Beijing, China: August 13-20, 2018, under the title '**Learning to be Human**'.

The speakers from five countries will address current global issues such as the phenomena of increasing loss of solidarity and violent conflicts, the societal impact of recent research in the sciences (such as neuro-sciences and techno-sciences), and the dynamic changes in the socio-economic sphere. In view of these fundamental challenges, the symposium will explore new philosophical approaches to the human being and its self-understanding. The scope of topics includes suggestions to re-define the relation between human beings and extra-human nature, as well as theories focusing on the situation of religion in the context of modernity.

The proceedings will be published by The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy, Washington, D.C., as part of a book series to be presented at the WCP, Beijing, China, 2018.

## Friday, April 7, 2017

**13.00 – 13.30**                    **Welcome Address & Introduction**

**13.30 – 15.00**                    **Chair: Ludwig Nagl**

13.30 – 14.00                    **Kurt Appel** / University of Vienna  
The Humanistic Potential of Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit

14.00 – 14.30                    **Thomas M. Schmidt** / Goethe University Frankfurt  
The Search for Lost Intimacy. Georges Bataille on Religion as Immanent Human Experience

14.30 – 15.00                    **Angela Kallhoff** / University of Vienna  
Rescue Cases and Environmental Duties in the Climate Crisis

**15.00 – 15.15**    **coffee break**

**15.15 – 16.45**                    **Chair: Claudia Melica**

15.15 – 15.45                    **Birgit Heller** / University of Vienna  
To Whom It May Concern. Humanity and Dignity in Interreligious Perspective

15.45 – 16.15                    **Maureen Junker-Kenny** / Trinity College Dublin, Ireland  
Re-learning to be Human: Translations Between Religions and Cultures as Case Studies of Mutual Learning

16.15 – 16.45                    **Sandra Lehmann** / University of Vienna  
Messianic Cessation and the Praxis of the Neighbor

**16.45 – 17.00**    **coffee break**

**17.00 – 18.30**                    **Chair: Herta Nagl-Docekal**

17.00 – 17.30                    **Stephan Steiner** / Katholische Akademie Berlin  
Emersonian Anxieties. The Age of Anthropocene and the Legacy of Humanism

17.30 – 18.00                    **Cornelia Esianu** / Alexandru-Ioan-Cuza-University of Iași, Rumänien  
The Conception of Love in Immanuel Kant and Friedrich Schlegel: Its Relevance for a Comprehensive Theory of the Human Being

18.00 – 18.30                    **Brigitte Buchhammer** / University of Vienna  
Philosophy as an Advocate of the Whole Humanity: Moral Enhancement Theories – a Current Philosophical Problem

**19.00**    **dinner**

## **Saturday, April 8, 2017**

- 10.30 – 12.00**                      **Chair: Thomas M. Schmidt**
- 10.30 – 11.00                      **Ludwig Nagl** / University of Vienna  
What is it to be a Human Being? Charles Taylor on “the Full Shape of the Human Linguistic Capacity“
- 11.00 – 11.30                      **Carlo Willmann** / Alanus University of Arts and Social Sciences, Vienna  
Empathy – Attention – Responsibility. Milestones to Humanity by Edith Stein, Simone Weil and Dag Hammarskjöld and their Relevance in the World of Today
- 11.30 – 12.00                      **Rita Perintfalvi** / Ökumenischer Verband der Theologinnen Ungarns  
(Re)-Learning to be Human in Central and Eastern Europe: If Political Authoritarianism is Flirting with Religious Fundamentalism

**12.00 – 14.00    lunch break**

- 14.00 – 15.30**                      **Chair: Maureen Junker-Kenny**
- 14.00 – 14.30                      **Herta Nagl-Docekal** / University of Vienna  
Educating Humanity. A Core Concern of Kant’s Philosophy of History
- 14.30 – 15.00                      **Leonhard Weiss** / Alanus University of Arts and Social Sciences Vienna  
‘The Human Being – A Beginner’. The Anthropological Foundations and Current Relevance of Hannah Arendt’s Understanding of Childhood and Education
- 15.00 – 15.30                      **Claudia Melica** / Sapienza University Rome  
‘Menschlichkeit’. Lessing’s Ideal Model for Culture, Religion and Ethics Today

**15.30 – 15.45    coffee break**

- 15.45 – 17.15**                      **Chair: Cornelia Esianu**
- 15.45 – 16.15                      **Isabella Guanzini** / University of Graz  
Humanisation and Desire. The Symbolic Dimensions in the Thinking of Jacques Lacan
- 16.15 – 16.45                      **Elisabeth Menschl** / Johannes Kepler-University Linz  
Occam’s Razor: Simplicity Versus Simplification or How to Deal with the Complex Images of Humanity
- 16.45 – 17.15                      **Sibylle Trawöger** / Katholische Privatuniversität Linz  
Learning to be Human in the Silence