

CALL FOR PAPERS

Philosophy in its Ancient Beginnings: on the conceptualisation, criticism and justification of philosophy in Antiquity

21-23 July 2017, Humboldt-University Berlin

In Antiquity, we find a lively debate about the meaning and value of philosophy and other rational endeavors. This debate formed our understanding of philosophy in a way that is still significant today. In this conference, we aim to bring papers on different aspects of this debate together, in order to better illuminate this debate and its ramifications. Core questions of the conference will be: What is philosophy and how did the understanding of "philosophy" develop in Antiquity? What does the criticism of philosophy and similar rational endeavors in Antiquity consist in? Which kind of justification of philosophy and similar rational endeavors do we find in Antiquity?

We ask for papers on these core questions of this debate and related issues such as, but not exclusively: philosophy as a way of life; philosophy as the highest scientific endeavor; the relation and delineation of philosophy from other endeavors as politics, rhetoric, sophistic, or the sciences; the historical and social impact on the origins of philosophy; the role of Socrates.

We are interested both in authors that are traditionally considered to be „philosophers“ as, for example, pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, and in authors such as Aristophanes, Thucydides, Gorgias, Antiphon, Isocrates, Xenophon.

Invited Speakers: Glenn W. Most (SNS Pisa/University of Chicago), Matthias Perkams (Universität Jena), John Sellars (King's College London), Marina McCoy (Boston College), Monte Ransome Johnson (UC San Diego),

Please submit anonymized abstracts of no more than 500 words to warumphilosophie@gmail.com no later than April 14, 2017. Notifications of acceptance will follow by April 24, 2017. Abstracts are accepted in English or German; talks should preferably be given in English and should be approximately 40 minutes long.

Some funds may be available to help defray travel expenses of those without resources to other funds. Priority in allocating these funds will be given to women, and philosophers from other groups typically underrepresented in philosophy.

The conference is organized by Christopher Roser and Ronja Hildebrandt and is generously supported by the DFG Research Training Group "Philosophy, Science, and the Sciences." (<https://ancient-philosophy.hu-berlin.de/en/ancient-philosophy/>)

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