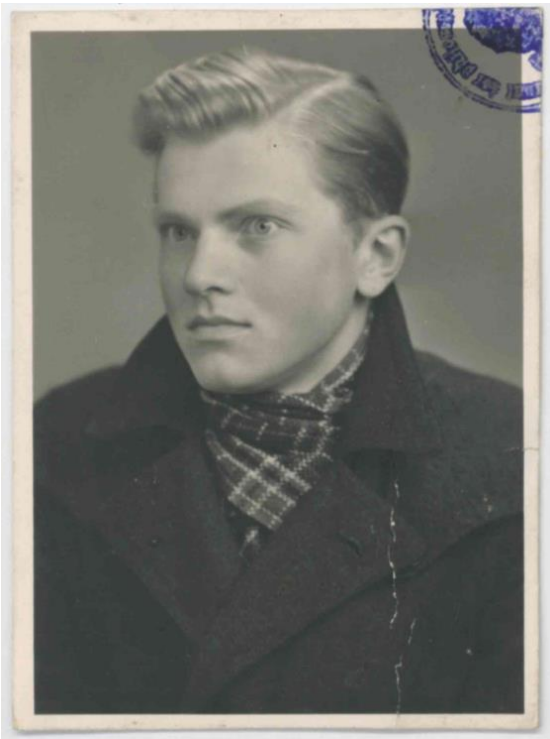


## Paul Feyerabend and Austrian Philosophy His Formative Years in Postwar Vienna

International Conference

July 5-6, 2024

University of Vienna, Aula at the Campus, Court 1, Entrance 1.11



courtesy of Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend

Paul K. Feyerabend (1924-1994), one of the most stimulating and controversial figures of Twentieth-Century philosophy, spent most of his formative years in postwar Vienna (1946-1955). Born in Red Vienna, Feyerabend came of age at the time of the Nazi *Anschluss* and completed his philosophical apprenticeship at the University of Vienna during the Allied occupation. At the time of his university studies in philosophy and physics, Feyerabend animated the so-called “Third Vienna Circle” (1949-1953) around Viktor Kraft in the context of the *Austrian College Society*, and actively participated in the *European Forum Alpbach* and in the *Institut für Wissenschaft und Kunst*. In addition, he served as a research assistant to Arthur Pap, who spent 1953/54 as a Fulbright visiting professor at the University of Vienna.

The international conference “Paul Feyerabend and Austrian Philosophy” aims at exploring the milieu which shaped Feyerabend’s intellectual development with a focus on his interaction with university teachers and intellectual figures such as members of the former Vienna Circle like Viktor Kraft, Philipp Frank, Herbert Feigl, and Rudolf Carnap, physicists like Felix Ehrenhaft and Hans Thirring, as well as with Walter Hollitscher and Ludwig Wittgenstein. Contacts continued throughout the 1950s and 1960s at the London School of Economics with Karl Popper and, later, with Imre Lakatos, and in Minneapolis, at Feigl’s Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science, in whose series Feyerabend published his pathbreaking “Against Method” for the first time in 1970.

A special symposium on the publication of *Feyerabend’s Formative Years*, edited by Matteo Collodel and Eric Oberheim (Springer Nature, two volumes) will be held as part of this conference.

The conference is organized by the Institute Vienna Circle (University of Vienna) and by the Vienna Circle Society. It is partnered with the subsequent *HOPOS 2024*, the Fifteenth International Congress of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science, University of Vienna, July 8-12, 2024, and it contributes to the *Feyerabend 2024 Centennial* celebrations.

Registration required ([vcs@univie.ac.at](mailto:vcs@univie.ac.at)).  
There will be no registration fee.

### Keynote Speakers

Vasso Kindi (University of Athens)

Martin Kusch (University of Vienna)

### Organizing Committee

Friedrich Stadler (University of Vienna)

Matteo Collodel (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice)

Daniel Kuby (University of Konstanz)

### Queries and questions

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## PROGRAM

**Thursday, July 4, 2024**

17 Uhr, Wiener Rathaus

Wiener Vorlesung „Der Wiener Kreis und seine Kritiker – Schlick-Zirkel, Popper und Feyerabend“

Panelists: *Elisabeth Nemeth, Helga Nowotny, Karl Sigmund, Friedrich Stadler*

Anmeldung erforderlich: <https://vorlesungen.wien.gv.at/>

**Friday, July 5, 2024**

Venue: University Campus, Court 1, Aula

Opening and Chair: Friedrich Stadler

09.00-09.30 Short video: Paul K. Feyerabend on the Vienna Circle and Austrian Philosophy – Section of an interview, May 15, 1992 in Rome (Italy), as part of the project “Enciclopedia Multimediale delle Scienze Filosofiche”, sponsored by RAI

09.30-10.30 **Keynote 1** *Martin Kusch (Vienna)*  
A Trialogue on Relativism: Frank, Neurath, Feyerabend

10.35-11.15 *Daniel Kuby (Konstanz)*, On the Benefits of the Cold War: The Case of Paul Feyerabend and the Vienna Circle

11.15-11.30 Coffee break

Chair: Ulrich Arnswald

11.30-12.10 *Gerrit Tiefenthal (Bielefeld)*, Feyerabend's Gay Philosophy of Science (based on Homer, Mach, and Nietzsche)

12.15-12.55 *Artur Koterski (Lublin)*, Feyerabend's Common Ground with Neo-positivism

12.55-14.00 Lunch break

Chair: Artur Koterski

14.00-14.40 *Rita Kimijima-Dennemayer (Leuven)*, On Anscombe's Intentionality and Feyerabend's Incommensurability

14.45-15.25 *Christoph Limbeck-Lilienau (Graz)*, Arthur Pap, Feyerabend and the Criticism of Logical Empiricism

15.30-16.10: *Marij van Strien (Nijmegen)*, Feyerabend and Popper on the Possibility of Philosophical Criticism of Quantum Mechanics

16.10-16.30 Coffee break

Chair: Paul Hoyningen-Huene

16.30-16.45 Book presentation: *Feyerabend's Formative Years*. Vol. 1. *Feyerabend and Popper*. Vol.2. *Feyerabend on Logical Empiricism, Bohm, and Kuhn*, ed. by Matteo Collodel and Eric Oberheim, (Vienna Circle Institute Library, Springer Nature 2020 / 2024).



- 16.50-17.30 *Eric Oberheim (Berlin)*, How Feyerabend's formative experiences with Wittgenstein and Ehrenhaft led to his 1967 break with Popper's school
- 17.35-18.15 *Matteo Collodel (Venice)*, Feyerabend in Dialogue: Origins, Reception, and Development of Feyerabend's Theoretical Pluralism
- 18.15-19.00 Round Table Discussion

**Saturday, July 6, 2024**

Venue: University Campus, Court 1, Aula

Chair: Friedrich Stadler

- 10.00-11.00 **Keynote 2** *Vasso Kindi (Athens)*  
Feyerabend's Ambivalent Relation to Wittgenstein
- 11.00-11.20 Coffee break

Chair: Daniel Kuby

- 11.20-12.00 *David Chandler (London)*, "Halt, So Geht Das Nicht!": Wittgenstein's Influence on Feyerabend's Philosophical Development
- 12.05-12.45 *Ulrich Arnsward (Innsbruck/Kaiserslautern-Landau)*, Wittgenstein's Impact Upon Feyerabend in His Formative Years in Postwar Vienna: Feyerabend's Review of the *Philosophical Investigations* in two Parts as a Possible Key
- 12.45-14.00 Lunch break

Chair: Marij van Strien

- 14.00-14.40 *Natalia Tomashpolskaja (Málaga)*, Feyerabend and Wittgenstein
- 14.45-15.25 *John Preston (Reading)*, Paul Feyerabend's Ludwig Boltzmann
- 15.25-15.45 Coffee Break

Chair: Christoph Limbeck-Lilienau

- 15.45-16.25 *Margaretha Hendrickx (Trumansburg)*, Remembering Paul Feyerabend as a Philosopher of the Linguistic Functioning of Science
- 16.30-17.10 *Paul Hoyningen-Huene (Hannover)*, Paul Feyerabend and the Fountain
- 17.10-17.30 Coffee Break

Chair: Matteo Collodel

- 17.30-18.10 *Jordi Cat (Bloomington)*, Feyerabend's Vienna Realism(s): From philosophy of science to science and from facts to values

Closing Remarks