

MICHAEL FRIEDMAN (1947-2025)

The community of the Vienna Circle Institute and the Vienna Circle Society was shocked about the message of Michael Friedman's death. From the beginning of our activities in 1991, Michael participated in several conferences with subsequent publications in our book series. One highlight was his role as an instructor for our 4th summer university on 'The Quest for Objectivity' in 2004, together with John Beatty and Helen Longino.



I personally was very much impressed by Michael's scholarly expertise and creativity bridging the gap between continental (Kant, Cassirer) and analytic philosophy of science (Vienna Circle, Logical Empiricism) as documented in his book *A Parting of the Ways* (2000), which was translated into German by a working group of analytic philosophy at the Department of Philosophy directed by my colleague Elisabeth Nemeth in 2004. Michael was paving the way to the integration of history and philosophy of science (HPS) and thereby enriching the history of philosophy of science (HOPOS). In addition, I very much appreciated Michael's inviting as well as professional way of lecturing and discussing. I remember his pioneering lectures on Carnap's *Aufbau* (published in German 1997), his participation in HOPOS 2000 in Vienna, also as a speaker of the distinguished 8th Vienna Circle Lecture on *The Idea of Scientific Philosophy*, which was published as „Kant, Kuhn, and the Rationality of Science“ (2002). Ten years later Michael contributed to the Carnap conference with his talk on scientific philosophy from Helmholtz, Carnap to Quine. Occasionally, he was accompanied by his lovely wife and excellent philosopher Graciela De Pierris (1950-2024), who lectured in Vienna on Quine in 2001.

When I met Michael in person several times, I always enjoyed his presence as a scholar and discussant with a sense of intellectual openness. Of course, I felt very much honored to have received his monographs with a dedication.

Regrettably, my last meeting him was only a virtual one on the occasion of the big Kant Congress 2015 in Vienna, where he presented his recorded keynote lecture in his unique exact and informative style, but without a discussion option. I am sure he would have liked our first exhibition on the Vienna Circle in the main building of the University of Vienna in the same year as a sort of rehabilitation and appreciation of this famous Viennese philosophical movement by the University of Vienna.

In the context of our forthcoming conference on the Vienna Circle and Logical Empiricism in 2026 we scheduled the first *Michael Friedman Memorial Lecture*, to be delivered by his renowned disciple Alan Richardson.

I myself, and our philosophical community in Vienna will miss Michael as an outstanding philosopher and sophisticated man.

Michael Friedman's publications with the Institute Vienna Circle book series:

Friedman, Michael: "Erkenntnistheorie in Carnaps *Aufbau*". In: *Bausteine wissenschaftlicher Weltauffassung. Vorträge*. Hrsg. Friedrich Stadler. Wien-New York: Springer 1997, 101-124.

Friedman, Michael: "Kant, Kuhn, and the Rationality of Science". In: *History of Philosophy of Science – New Trends and Perspectives*. Ed. by Michael Heidelberger and Friedrich Stadler. Dordrecht-Boston-London: Kluwer 2001, 25-42.

Friedman, Michael: "Scientific Philosophy from Helmholtz to Carnap and Quine". In: *Rudolf Carnap and the Legacy of Logical Empiricism*. Ed. by Richard Creath. Wien-New York : Springer, 1-11.

Graciela DePierris, „Quine's Historical Argument for Epistemology Naturalized“, in: *The Vienna Circle and Logical Empiricism*. Ed. by Friedrich Stadler. Dordrecht-Boston-London: Kluwer 2002, 189-204.



Michael Friedman, Eckehart (Kay) Köhler, Graciela DePierris in Vienna (Vienna Circle Society)



Michael Friedman (at the center in the first row) with the group of the IVC Summer School 2004 (Vienna Circle Society)