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Jan von Plato

Jan von Plato has a long career as a logician with proof theory and constructive mathematics as a specialization. He is also an expert on the history of exact science and logic. His publications include works in proof theory and the development of logic, as well as over ten books, among them *Structural Proof Theory* (with Sara Negri), *Saved from the Cellar: Gerhard Gentzen's Shorthand Notes on Logic and Foundations of Mathematics*, and *Can Mathematics Be Proved Consistent? Gödel's Shorthand Notes & Lectures on Incompleteness*. He is currently leading a second ERC Advanced Grant Project at the University of Helsinki that explores the shorthand notes of Gödel, Gentzen, and Paul Bernays.

Abstract

Modern logic began with Frege, Peano, and Russell. Wittgenstein's *Tractatus* made it a cornerstone of a particular philosophy of logical atomism that greatly influenced the founders of logical empiricism. Viennese mathematicians and philosophers around 1925 were keenly interested in the new logic, including Kurt Gödel's teachers Hans Hahn and Moritz Schlick, whose seminars the fresh physics student of 1924 attended. In 1928, the newly appointed Privatdozent Rudolf Carnap held a course "Axiomatik-Übungen" (Exercises in axiomatics), with Gödel among the participants. Provoked by Carnap's exercises, Gödel singularly transformed the world of logic with his completeness and incompleteness theorems. The details of these years of transfiguration of modern logic in Vienna have been unveiled only recently, through the transcription of Gödel's preserved shorthand notes of the time. These developments are described with illustrations from the original notes and other contemporary sources.

34th Vienna Circle Lecture

Jan von Plato
(University of Helsinki)

The Transfiguration of Logic: Wittgenstein to Gödel

Monday, October 19, 2026
7 pm

Aula at Campus,
University of Vienna
Court 1, Door 1.11
Spitalgasse 2-4
1090 Vienna

No registration fee
Registration required:
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YouTube Livestream:
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As part of the conference

**The Vienna Circle and Logical
Empiricism. Research and
Historiography**

October 19-21, 2026
University of Vienna – Aula at
Campus

Organized by:
Vienna Circle Society and
Institute Vienna Circle

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Wiener Kreis
Gesellschaft
Spitalgasse 2-4, Hof 1,
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<https://vcs.univie.ac.at/>
Gefördert durch



Eigentümer und Herausgeber:
Institut Wiener Kreis
Alser Straße 23/32
1080 Wien
<https://wienerkreis.univie.ac.at/>