**International Conference**

**WITTGENSTEIN AND THE VIENNA CIRCLE – AFTER 100 YEARS**

**Vienna, June 10-12, 2021**

Organized by the *Vienna Circle Society* and the *Institute Vienna Circle*, *University of Vienna*, on the occasion of the 30th resp. 10th anniversaries of their existence.

<https://www.univie.ac.at/vcs/> and <https://wienerkreis.univie.ac.at/institut/>

Together with: *Austrian Ludwig Wittgenstein Society* (ALWS) <https://www.alws.at/>

*Austrian National Library* (ÖNB) <https://www.onb.ac.at/>

Supported by: *ERSTE Foundation,* *The* *Sekyra Foundation*, *City of Vienna*

Organizers: *Friedrich Stadler, Karl Sigmund* (VCS), *Esther Ramharter*, *Martin Kusch* (IVC)

Venues: University of Vienna, Main Building, and Austrian National Library.

Conference Languages: German and English

Media Partner: *Wiener Zeitung*

Ludwig Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus logico philosophicus* (TLP) inspired the renowned Vienna Circle around Moritz Schlick after WW I as was the case with the literary avant-garde of the „Vienna Group” (Wiener Gruppe) after WW II, followed by the famous Austrian writer Ingeborg Bachmann. In architecture, the family resemblance with Adolf Loos and Paul Engelmann is well known and obvious. The lifework of Wittgenstein beginning with his path-breaking *Tractatus* amounts to a sort of world cultural heritage, which initiated at the same time the digital logic in the epoch of our computer age. In addition, in the arts we find the impact of the *Tractatus* in minimal art or in contemporary music. The basic question of this work focuses on the meaning of life with values in the technological modern world dealing with the limits of what can be expressed and shown. Even if Wittgenstein has moved from picture theory to game theory of language in his later life, the issue of human language remains in the center of his thinking, which according to him cannot be transcended. Hereby Wittgenstein remains an intellectual challenge for any human orientation in contemporary civilization between philosophy, science, and the arts. The oeuvre of Wittgenstein belongs to the cultural heritage like Robert Musil’s “Man without Qualities”, Karl Kraus’ “The Last Days of Mankind”, or Kurt Gödel’s incompleteness proof in formal logic and human thinking up to artificial intelligence.

In 2021, the centenary of the first publication of Wittgenstein’s *Logisch-philosophische* *Abhandlung* (1921) will be commemorated. One year later, the German-English edition appeared as *Tractatus logico-philosophicus*, which exerted an enormous influence on the intellectual history and philosophy of the 20th century until the present. In addition, next year we are also thinking of the 70th anniversary of Wittgenstein’s death in 1951.

The principal aim of this conference is to focus on the origin and content of the TLP in context, and to critically deal with the influence and diverse reception of the TLP within the Vienna Circle, besides Moritz Schlick and Friedrich Waismann, but also to draw on mutual impacts. Additional important philosophers for Wittgenstein like Frege, Frank P. Ramsey and Bertrand Russell are taken into regard, too. All these topics will be addressed with reference to Viennese modernity and in the context of general intellectual and cultural history.

On all these occasions, we are organizing this international conference in Vienna, June 10-12, 2021, preceding the huge 44th International Wittgenstein Symposium in Kirchberg/W. in Lower Austria, August 8-14, 2021, also with a focus on the TLP. The aim of the Vienna conference is a critical re-evaluation of Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus* in scientific and cultural contexts just in his home city, where he and his family are still manifest so impressively, e.g. with the sponsored Secession Building, or the Wittgenstein House in the 3rd district. The locations of the symposium are the University of Vienna, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and the Austrian National Library, which owns a most valuable collection of *Wittgensteiniana,* classified as World Document Heritage (*Weltdokumentenerbe*).

Invited speakers (confirmed):

*Richard Creath* (Tempe, USA), *Juliet Floyd* (Boston, USA), *James Klagge* (Blacksburg, USA), *Massimo Ferrari* (Torino, IT*), Nicole Immler* (Utrecht, NL), *Daniele Moyal-Sharrock* (Hertfordshire, UK), *Marjorie Perloff* (Stanford, UK), *Alois Pichler* (Bergen, NO), *Cheryl Misak* (Toronto, CA), *Michael Potter* (Cambridge, UK), *John Preston* (Reading, UK), *Thomas Ricketts (Pittsburgh, US)*, *Roman Sandgruber* (Linz, AUT), *Joachim Schulte* (Zürich, CH), *Hans Sluga* (Berkeley, US), *Thomas Uebel* (Manchester, UK)

Scientific Contact: Friedrich Stadler, [Friedrich.Stadler@univie.ac.at](mailto:Friedrich.Stadler@univie.ac.at)

Administrative contact: Sabine Koch, [Sabine.Koch@univie.ac.at](mailto:Sabine.Koch@univie.ac.at)