

International Conference:
„Conceptions of Nature in Classical German Philosophy“
The University of Stuttgart, Institute of Philosophy
July 5-7, 2023

Kant and a number of post-Kantian thinkers developed a distinctively philosophical take on nature that is meant to *complement* natural science *in some way or other*. Their conceptions of nature are non-naturalist in that they do not assume one can deal with nature head-on by directly turning it into a topic of *philosophical* cognition. Rather, on their account philosophical cognition of nature is viable only if based upon a philosophical investigation of our own mental powers. In consequence, they envisage ‘nature’ as a concept of reflection that only makes sense in contrast to concepts which articulate kinds of human activity or aspects thereof. Given that our mental powers make up an organized whole, to concepts of such powers and of ways of exercising them a *series* of concepts of nature correspond, whence conceptual pairs such as *reason-nature, mind-nature, history-nature, art-nature, technology-nature* etc.

It is against the background of these shared assumptions, which might very well be disputed, that the conference aims to critically compare divergent conceptions of nature in classical German philosophy, broadly understood.

Participants and Topics

Jennifer Bates (Duquesne University): Can Hegel's Philosophy of Nature be Used to Argue for a Non-Anthropocentric Theory of Sustainability?

James Conant (The University of Chicago): t. b. a.

Kristina Engelhard (University of Trier): Nature and Natures in Kant

Stephen Engstrom (University of Pittsburgh): The Legislation for Nature

Eli Friedlander (Tel Aviv University): Walter Benjamin on the Natural-historical Life of Artistic Forms

Luca Illetterati (University of Padova): Hegel's Ontology of Nature

Christian Martin (University of Stuttgart): Philosophy of Nature from a Terrestrial Point of View

Matthias Haase (The University of Chicago): The Contradiction of Life: Hegel on Animal Nature

Johannes Haag (University of Potsdam): Beautiful Art and Nature in Kant's *Critique of Judgment*

Sebastian Ostritsch (University of Stuttgart) Why Does Nature exist? Hegelian Necessity vs. Creation

Daniel Warren (University of California, Berkeley): Kant's Conception of the Nature of Matter

Conference Dates: 5th of July, 9. a. m. – 7th of July, 5 p. m.

Conference Venue: University of Stuttgart, IBZ („Eulenhof“), Robert-Leicht-Straße 161, 70569 Stuttgart, Germany

Organization: Prof. Dr. Christian Martin, University of Stuttgart, Institute of Philosophy, Seidenstraße 36, 70174 Stuttgart, Germany

Registration: participation in the conference is free, but places are limited. To register, please contact christian.martin@philo.uni-stuttgart.de before July 1.