

## Warwick Continental Philosophy Conference 2020



### Call for Abstracts

#### **Conference Venue:**

Department of Philosophy, University of Warwick  
Coventry, United Kingdom

#### **Keynote Speakers:**

Prof Stella Sandford (Kingston University)  
Dr Mogens Lærke (CNRS)

### ***Continental Philosophy and its Histories***

**05-06 June 2020** University of Warwick (UK)

Continental Philosophy often focuses its efforts on studying, comparing, and criticising the thought of past philosophers. One would be hard-pressed to find a thinker in the Continental tradition who has not understood and presented their own thought in relation to an Ancient Greek, or a Modern philosopher. But these philosophers do not approach historical figures as 'historians of ideas' or as 'experts' on a historical period. Rather, the new philosophy is seen as standing in contrast to, or as a continuation of, the problems and questions of the past. As such, Continental Philosophy often places a strong emphasis on the construction of, and the engagement with, its histories, thereby understanding and differentiating itself on the basis of traditions, schools, and systems, rather than theories, disciplines, and problems.

One of the aims of this conference is to investigate different ways in which Continental Philosophy engages with the thinkers that belong to its history: what is it to 'read' Plato, Spinoza, Kant, or Nietzsche in Continental Philosophy? How important is the canon and what is its methodological and philosophical significance? Should we keep putting forward various creative (mis)readings of the past philosophers or, as Husserl has suggested early on, is it better to get rid of the past and proceed afresh with a new method?

History, however, is more than a 'tool' utilised by Continental Philosophy. From Hegel's Philosophy of History and Marx's materialisation of it, to Heidegger's distinction between *Historie* and *Geschichte*, and Adorno and Horkheimer's *Dialectic of Enlightenment* Continental Philosophy makes the phenomenon (in contrast to the discipline) of history the very object of its investigations. Hence, we wonder: what does it mean to write a 'philosophy of history' and what possible form can such an enquiry take today?

But it must not be forgotten that Continental Philosophy can itself be seen as a period in the longer history of philosophy. This makes the very concept of Continental Philosophy open to inquiry by philosophers, but also to historians, sociologists, political scientists, etc. What does it mean to address Continental philosophy as a historical period? Can methods, approaches, traditions, and theories from other disciplines illuminate and inform philosophical understandings of Continental Philosophy? Can such approaches be helpful to disciplines other than philosophy? This is another crucial topic that this conference aims to investigate.

To this end, the Warwick Continental Philosophy Conference (WCPC) invites papers in Continental or European philosophy focusing on Continental Philosophy and its Histories, broadly understood. Suggested topics might include, but are not limited to:

- How and why does Continental Philosophy utilise past thinkers as a part of its method?
- How does Continental Philosophy employ history, understood both as an object of research (e.g. history of philosophy, society, nature) and as a method of thinking (e.g. dialectics, genealogy, archaeology, deconstruction)?
- Is there such a thing as *the* Continental canon? Is such a thing possible or desirable, fixed or modifiable?
- What is Philosophy of History? Can, or should, one engage in such an endeavour today?
- Can there be a historiography of Continental Philosophy?
- Can, or should, one employ methods and approaches from other disciplines in order to investigate Continental Philosophy?

### **Submission Guidelines:**

Submitted abstracts should be approximately 500-800 words long. Abstracts must be written in English, and should be sent to the WCPC committee at [wpcpc@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:wpcpc@warwick.ac.uk).

**The deadline** for abstract submission is the **15th of March 2020**.

The abstracts should include the following information:

- The title of the paper
- Your name and institutional affiliation
- Your preferred email contact address

Please note that we ask that your presentation should be no longer than **30 minutes**.

We particularly encourage submissions by philosophers from groups who are underrepresented in the discipline.

We aim to make the conference accessible in accordance with BPA/SWIP guidelines. The conference venue is wheelchair accessible. Some funding is available for childcare. If you would like to request childcare in order to attend the conference or if you have any questions about this, please contact us at [wpcp@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:wpcp@warwick.ac.uk).

Lodging and travel bursaries may become available, on the condition of securing additional funding. We ask that you please indicate in your e-mail whether you would like to be considered for bursaries.

This conference is made possible by generous funding provided by the **University of Warwick Philosophy Department** and **British Society for the History of Philosophy**. It is an annual event within The Centre for Research in Post-Kantian European Philosophy (University of Warwick).

Further details regarding the conference, registration, and travelling to the University of Warwick can be found [on the official conference website](#).