

Rethinking European Modernity in a Global Context

A Conversation with Hans Schelkshorn

Friday 26-09-2025 and Saturday 27-09-2025

Meeting Room at the Deanery of the Faculty of Catholic Theology
(Dekanatssitzungssaal KTF), University of Vienna, and online.



RETHINKING EUROPEAN MODERNITY

Reason, Power, and Coloniality
in Early Modern Thought

HANS SCHELSKHORN

BLOOMSBURY

Programme

Friday, 26-09-2025

10:00 – 10:30 Welcoming

10:30 – 10:45 Ľubomír Dunaj: Introduction

10:45 – 11:30 Hans Schelkshorn (University of Vienna)
*A European contribution to the global discourse on modernity.
Biographical backgrounds and systematic views*

11:30 – 12:30 Eduardo Mendieta (Penn State University)
The Dialectics of Coloniality/Modernity: Rewriting a Classic

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 – 15:30 Petra Gūmplová (University of Jena)
*Colonial origins of international law and the unfinished project
of global cosmopolitanism*

15:30– 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:00 Hans-Herbert Kögler (University of North Florida)
*The Colonial Debt of Universalism. Laboratories of Modernity
between De-Limitation and Regrounding Reason*

17:00 – 18:00 Agata Bielik-Robson (University of Nottingham)
The Invention of Transcendence: Axiality in Jewish Tradition

19:30 Dinner

Saturday, 27-09-2025

10:00 – 11:00 Matthias Kettner (Witten/Herdecke University)

The Priority of the Ethical over the Moral in (Discourse)Ethics

11:00 – 12:00 Peter Wagner (University of Barcelona)

Modernity as de-limitations?

Rethinking the philosophy and history of modernity

12:30– 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:00 Ľubomír Dunaj (Slovak Academy of Sciences)

Between Árnason and Habermas.

Some remarks on Hans Schelkshorn's theory of modernity

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 - 16:30 William Outhwaite (Newcastle University)

Modernity Today

16:30 - 17:30 Jorge Zúñiga (University of Mexico / University of Duisburg-Essen)

Modernity and Liberation: Response to Schelkshorn's Critique to Dussel

Workshop

In his book "*Rethinking European Modernity. Reason, Power and Coloniality*" (Bloomsbury 2024), Hans Schelkshorn lays the foundation for a new philosophical interpretation of European modernity, which critically responds to intra-European debates (Critical Theory, Heidegger, Blumenberg, Frankfurt discourse theory, Civilization theory) on the one hand, and the critique of modernity by postcolonial philosophies in Latin America on the other hand. In the light of the metatheory of "de-limitations", cultural upheavals triggered by the astronomical revolution and Europe's transoceanic expansion are reinterpreted in detailed studies of the philosophies of the Renaissance and the rationalist thinking of the 17th century. From this perspective, European modernity appears as an amalgam of rational achievements, power syndromes, and particular cultural dimensions. This conference intends a "Zwischenbetrachtung", not only in the reception of Schelkshorn's theory of modernity, but also in current research in intercultural philosophy.

Coordination

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Organised by

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Institute of Philosophy of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Klemensova 19, 811 09 Bratislava, Slovak Republic.

Event Location

Meeting Room at the Deanery of the Faculty of Catholic Theology

("Dekanatssaal der Katholisch-Theologischen Fakultät"),
University of Vienna, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Vienna.
Staircase 8, 2nd level, right part of the building.

Good to know

Hybrid setting: on site (limited spots), and online.

English as Congress Language.

Website for more information: <https://ph-ktf.univie.ac.at>

Registration (deadline 22-09-2025)+ Contact (Administration):

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