



*uefiscdi*

We have the pleasure to invite you to the international conference:

*Philosophical Controversies and Preisfragen:  
Shaping the Enlightenment between  
Wolff and Kant*



**Thursday, 18 May, 2017, from h 10.00 to 18.30**  
**Friday, 19 May, 2017, from h 10.00 to 18.30**

**at New Europe College (Plantelor 21, Bucharest)**

**Convener:** Tinca PRUNEA-BRETONNET

**Participants:** Paola BASSO, Karin de BOER, Vlad DOLGHI, Daniel DUMOUCHEL, Corey DYCK, Matteo FAVARETTI CAMPOSAMPIERO, Ursula GOLDENBAUM, Sophie GRAPOTTE, Christian LEDUC, Alessandro NANNINI, Elena PARTENE, Tinca PRUNEA-BRETONNET, Andrea REICHENBERGER

The conference is organized within the framework of the research project *Philosophy between Mathematical Method and Experiment: the Berlin Academy (1746-1764)*, funded by UEFISCDI-CNCS (PN-RU-TE-II 2014-4-2522).

*The conference is organized by IRH-ICUB, University of Bucharest and New Europe College.*

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# PROGRAM

## Description

The conference examines the impact of a series of key debates on the development of German Enlightenment philosophy from Wolff to Kant. It discusses the ways in which these controversies both responded to problems inherited from the seventeenth century and contributed to the formation of a distinctive German philosophical discourse. Special attention is paid to the 'speculative philosophy class' of the Berlin Academy, which through its prize essay contests both substantially enhanced the significance of ongoing controversies and initiated new debates, often taking its cue from the philosophical positions of Leibniz, Wolff, the British empiricists, Newton, and Kant. The conference papers cover both theoretical approaches to the art of debating and specific debates in the fields of metaphysics, the philosophy of science, psychology, aesthetics, and epistemology. They will address the following questions: What was the debates' impact on eighteenth-century German philosophy? What role did the enlightened public play in these controversies? In the end, did the controversies leave the key questions open or succeeded in reaching some agreement? To what extent was the German Enlightenment driven by antagonism – in particular, can we detect a shift from agonistic arguments in the first half of the century to a more conciliatory debate mood in the second half?

## Thursday, May 18

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10.00-10.10 **Welcome:** Tinca Prunea-Bretonnet

10.10-11.00 **Ursula Goldenbaum** (Atlanta): The Public Scandal about the *Jugement* of the Berlin Academy concerning a Leibniz Letter

11.00-11.30 Coffee

11.30-12.20 **Corey Dyck** (London, Canada): The Leibniz/Clarke Correspondence and Wolff's Turn to Ontology

12.20-13.10 **Matteo Favaretti Camposampiero** (Venice): Incompatible Immortalities: Debates on the Afterlife in the Wolffian Age

13.10-14.30 Lunch

14.30-15.20 **Andrea Reichenberger** (Paderborn): The Concept of Inertia from Newton to Kant

15.20-16.10 **Christian Leduc** (Montreal): Kant on Mechanism in the 1750s

16.10-16.40 Coffee

16.40-17.30 **Vlad Dolghi** (Bucharest): Maupertuis on the Laws of Nature

17.30-18.20 **Alessandro Nannini** (Jena): *Imperium non tyrannis*. The Controversy on Sensibility at the Origins of Modern Aesthetics

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Friday, May 19

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10.00-10.50 **Daniel Dumouchel (Montreal): En amont du concours de 1777: Sulzer sur la connaissance et le sentiment**

10.50-11.20 Coffee

11.20-12.10 **Paola Basso (Bucharest): Geometry and Theology: The Climax of the Battle for the "Primacy of Certainty" during the Preisfrage for 1763**

12.10-13.00 **Karin de Boer (Leuven): Kant's Inquiries into a New Touchstone for Metaphysical Truths**

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.30-15.20 **Elena Partene (Paris): La crise de la métaphysique et la critique du paradigme logico-mathématique**

15.20-16.10 **Tinca Prunea-Bretonnet (Bucharest): Metaphysics in the Kantian Age: Progress or Decline?**

16.10-16.40 Coffee

16.40-17.30 **Sophie Grapotte (Lyon): Le suprasensible dans la réponse de Kant à la *Preisfrage* pour l'année 1791**

17.30-17.45 **Concluding remarks**

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### Participants' affiliation

Paola Basso, University of Bucharest

Karin de Boer, University of Leuven

Vlad Dolghi, University of Bucharest

Daniel Dumouchel, Université de Montréal

Corey Dyck, University of Western Ontario

Matteo Favaretti Camposampiero, University of Venice

Ursula Goldenbaum, Emory University

Sophie Grapotte, IHRIM ENS Lyon

Christian Leduc, Université de Montréal

Alessandro Nannini, University of Jena

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