

2nd international summer school on Kant and German idealism
Freedom and Human Nature in Kant, Fichte and Hegel

26-28 June 2016
University of Tuebingen

Organization: Julia Peters, Ulrich Schloesser

Tuebingen plays a crucial role in the development of German idealism, since three of its main protagonists – Hegel, Schelling, Hoelderlin – took up their philosophical and theological studies here in the 1780s. The Philosophy Department at the University of Tuebingen has a long tradition of important research in the philosophy of Kant and German idealism. Building on this tradition, we are running a biannual series of international summer schools on Kant and German idealism. The aim of our summer school series is to provide a forum for exploring philosophical texts which have contributed essentially to the emergence of German idealism and the development of Kantian transcendental philosophy, but which have received only little scholarly attention so far.

This year's summer school is devoted to questions revolving around the relation between freedom and human nature in Kant, Fichte and Hegel. We start from the observation that in the 1790s, Kant is increasingly concerned with defining and analyzing anthropological conditions for free, autonomous action. This raises the question of whether there is – as some commentators have suggested – a tension between Kant's a priori reason-based concept of freedom as elaborated in his earlier critical works, and his later idea that human freedom is subject to anthropological, empirical constraints and conditions. We intend to examine the relation between Kant's a priori and anthropological approach to human freedom. Furthermore, against this background we will look at how Fichte's and Hegel's way of appropriating Kant's conception of freedom may have been influenced by their aim to integrate transcendental and anthropological perspectives on human freedom.

The summer school puts a major emphasis on in-depth reading and discussion. Combined with complementary lectures by invited speakers, extensive discussion sessions will allow participants to explore highly complex and often obscure philosophical texts in a joint effort, thereby opening up new perspectives on a central topic in Kantian and German idealist philosophy. Furthermore, by bringing together experts and students from all over the world, the summer school provides a space for dialogue between the German philosophical tradition of close textual work and the traditional Anglo-American focus on rigorous systematic argument. All discussions and public lectures at the summer school will be in English.

Confirmed speakers and discussants include: **Stephen Engstrom (University of Pittsburgh), Wayne Martin (University of Essex), Terry Pinkard (Georgetown University), Owen Ware (Simon Fraser University), Guenter Zoeller (LMU Munich).**

Applications are invited for up to *10 SUMMER SCHOOL GRANTS* for PhD students:

- Grant holders will attend the summer school, read assigned texts in advance, participate in discussions and attend lectures.
- Grants cover travel expenses (within Europe) and accommodation in Tuebingen for four nights.
- Applicants must be PhD students in philosophy working on topics related to the theme of the summer school. Postdocs are eligible to apply to attend the summer school but cannot receive a grant.
- PhD students travelling from outside Europe are welcome to apply, but their travel expenses can be covered only partially by the grant (the amount covered will be roughly equivalent to travel costs from within Europe).
- Applications should include the following documents: a CV; a statement of interest (max. two pages) outlining how the candidate's research interests connect with the theme of the summer school and how her/his attendance of the summer school would contribute to the progress of her/his research. Applications may be in German or English.
- Application deadline: **31 March 2016**.
- Applications should be submitted electronically to **idealismus[at]philosophsem.uni-tuebingen.de**.
- Notification of acceptance will be given by mid-April 2016.
- For any queries concerning the grants or the application procedure, please contact **julia.peters[at]uni-tuebingen.de**.

Candidates who are interested in attending the summer school without applying for a summer school grant should follow the application procedure specified above and indicate in their application that they are not applying for a grant, but only to attend the summer school.

Since places are strictly limited, we will be able to admit only candidates who have been selected through the application procedure.