



A Continental Divide?
The Legacy of Ernst Cassirer and the Future of the Human Sciences

Symposium

SCAS, Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2, Uppsala
January 21-22, 2013

The Ernst Cassirer Symposium on January 21 and 22, 2013, will highlight the significance of Ernst Cassirer's oeuvre to research across the philosophical, historical, and human sciences but also to their interaction with the natural sciences.

The symposium draws on experiences and achievements of the Ernst Cassirer programme, pursued at the Swedish Collegium, in collaboration with Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. The programme has been conducted during a period of six years, with generous support from the Volkswagen Stiftung. It has contributed to a revival of interest in intellectual traditions partly forgotten in Swedish and Scandinavian intellectual life. The symposium will identify some of these features. Most importantly, however, the idea is to look ahead and to identify critical areas for a sustained engagement in the spirit of Ernst Cassirer with key areas in the social and human sciences.

Former holders of the Ernst Cassirer Visiting Professorship, namely Professors Hans Joas, Hans-Peter Krüger, Michael Moxter, and Wilfried Nippel, will play an important role. The symposium will begin with a lecture at 18.15 on January 21 by Professor Peter E. Gordon (Harvard University) presenting key themes in his recent book *Continental Divide: Heidegger, Cassirer, Davos* (Harvard University Press, 2010).

For the symposium proper on January 22, the former Cassirer Professors and other outstanding senior scholars but also a number of early-career scholars mainly from Sweden, have been asked to prepare comments of some 15 minutes on aspects of the book that highlight themes of particular significance for future research efforts to engage with. The ambition is to identify and assess the fruitfulness and urgency of deep-seated intellectual problems of relevance to the contemporary world but with a resonance and a potential inspiration deriving from the works of Ernst Cassirer or in the tradition to which he has given inspiration.

Thus it is our hope and belief that the symposium will constitute an important intellectual event. It will not be an exegetic exercise in the history of philosophy of the interwar years. Instead it should serve as point of departure for audacious future endeavours in the spirit of Ernst Cassirer.

Prior registration is required.

Please see the attached programme for further details.

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PROGRAMME

Monday, January 21

18:15

Lecture: **Cassirer and Heidegger: Origins and Aftershocks of a Continental Divide**

PETER E. GORDON (Harvard University)

Tuesday, January 22

9:00 - 9:15

Introduction

BJÖRN WITTRÖCK (SCAS, Uppsala)

9:15 - 10:15

Session I: **The Relevance of Cassirer and the Rewriting of Intellectual History**

WILFRIED NIPPEL (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

STEPHAN STEINER (Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung Berlin)

10:15 - 10:45

COFFEE/TEA BREAK

10:45 - 11:45

Session II: **Philosophical Anthropology and Political Philosophy in a New Key**

HANS-PETER KRÜGER (Universität Potsdam)

EVA ERMAN (SCAS, Uppsala, and Uppsala University)

11:45 - 12:45

Session III: **The Human Sciences and the Transformation of Theology**

MICHAEL MOXTER (Universität Hamburg)

OLA SIGURDSON (University of Gothenburg)

12:45 - 13:45

LUNCH BREAK

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13:45 - 14:45

SESSION IV: Pragmatism and Phenomenology - Social Theory and Ethics

HANS JOAS (Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS), and University of Chicago)

KRISTIN ZEILER (SCAS, Uppsala, and Linköping University)

14:45 - 15:45

SESSION V: Intellectual History, Rhetoric, and Aesthetics in a World Transformed

MICHAEL J. PUETT (Harvard University)

MATS ROSENGREN (Södertörn University)

15:45 - 16:15

COFFEE/TEA BREAK

16:15 - 17:15

SESSION VI: Science, Technology and the Divide Between Cultural and Natural Sciences

HANS-JÖRG RHEINBERGER (Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin)

CHRISTER NORDLUND (SCAS, Uppsala, and Umeå University)

17:15 - 18:00

SESSION VII: Closing comments

GUSTAF ARRHENIUS (SCAS, Uppsala, and Stockholm University)

H. OTTO SIBUM (Uppsala University)

JOHAN ÖSTLING (SCAS, Uppsala, and Lund University)

Prior registration is required. Since the number of seats is limited, seats will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Please register by sending an email to rsvp@swedishcollegium.se and indicate which date/s you would like to attend. Please note that your registration is not valid until you have received an email confirmation.

The symposium is funded by *VolkswagenStiftung*.

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