

# Wolff's *German Ethics* - New Approaches and Perspectives

4.-6. November 2020, IZEA, Halle (Saale)

The 300th anniversary of the publication of Christian Wolff's *Vernünfftige Gedancken von der Menschen Thun und Lassen* ('Deutsche Ethik,' 1720) is an excellent occasion to take a fresh look at the text. This is especially true given Wolff's practical philosophy is still somewhat neglected by scholars of many varieties, at least compared to his theoretical philosophy. This conference aims at remedying this deficiency by exploring systematically pertinent issues in Wolff's 'German Ethics,' such as the question of how perfection relates to happiness, the role of pleasure in (moral) motivation, and Wolff's conception of normativity and 'natural obligation.' In this context, questions concerning the relation of Wolff's ethics to that of his predecessors and contemporaries, such as Leibniz, are also of interest. Wolff owes his conception of perfection, for example, to Leibniz. The conference has the further goal of providing historically and systematically robust interpretations of Wolff's practical philosophy in order to (1) better understand the contours of his philosophy in relation to the larger 18<sup>th</sup>-century philosophical landscape; and (2) shed light on issues in contemporary practical philosophy, e.g. the normativity of practical reasons and the difference between motivating and justifying reasons.

## Confirmed Speakers:

Stefano Bacin (Milan) • Corey Dyck (Western) • Ursula Goldenbaum (Emory) • Paul Guyer (Brown) • Dieter Hüning (Trier) • Timothy Rosenkoetter (Dartmouth) • Paola Rumore (Turin)  
• Clemens Schwaiger (Don Bosco)

## Call for Papers

In addition to the above invited presentations, scholars and students of all levels who are working on topics directly related to Wolff's *Deutsche Ethik* are invited to submit a proposal which will be considered for inclusion in the conference program. Please send an **abstract** of approximately **500 words** to [michael.walschots@phil.uni-halle.de](mailto:michael.walschots@phil.uni-halle.de) by **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020**.

## Organized by:

Sonja Schierbaum • John Walsh • Michael Walschots