

Universität  
Basel

*International Workshop*

*University of Basel—September 28–29*

**The Persistence of CRISIS  
*within*  
HEGEL'S Speculative  
REASON**



**Die Persistenz der KRISE  
*in*  
HEGELS spekulativer  
VERNUNFT**

*When?*

Thursday–Friday, September 28–29, 2023

*Where?*

University of Basel

\*Hörsaal 116, \*\*Hörsaal 120, Kollegienhaus, Petersplatz 1, 4051 Basel

*Registration and Contact:*

[gregor.schaefer@unibas.ch](mailto:gregor.schaefer@unibas.ch)

*Organization:*

Gregor Schäfer (University of Basel)

*Sponsored by:*

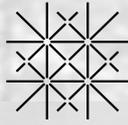
University of Basel

Society for German Idealism & Romanticism (SGIR)

•As Hegel's prominent as well as controversial formula from the *Elements of the Philosophy of Right* has it, what is reasonable has to be conceived as actual—and what is actual has to be conceived as reasonable. According to an influential narrative—put forward, with different political aims, both from a left-wing and a right-wing perspective—, this configuration implies the seemingly harmonious reconciliation of philosophy with the existing particular state of the world and its social-political institutions. Philosophy, however, as Hegel emphatically claims as well advocating a strikingly drastic Christian image, recognizes “the rose” only “in the cross of the present”; and where philosophy conceives what is actual as what is reasonable “a shape of life has grown old”. Hence, against the *cliché* of a tensionless reconciliation of speculative reason with the existing state of the present, what hereby is at stake is rather the concept of a broken, unsettled present whose structure constitutively is determined by the form of its crisis—by ruptures, contradictions, conflicts, negativity, reflexivity throughout: a crisis which philosophy cannot settle or stabilize—for philosophy, as the consequent reflection of speculative thinking, rather *is* the expression of this very crisis. Paradoxically, Hegel's figure of a speculative reconciliation, then, is not situated beyond crisis but rather entails—and even radicalizes—the persistence of crisis as its very core (in parallel with speculative reason's being dialectically mediated by the purely abstract negativity of *Verstand*—instead of being separated from it).

The provocative challenge of this paradoxical constellation and its critical potential are still an important *desideratum* of Hegel research. It is the working thesis of this present event that such a predicament of crisis is inherent to Hegel's entire system, not only to Hegel's *Realphilosophie*—and particularly the philosophy of spirit—but also to the very structure of Hegel's conception of speculative thinking as such. Of particular interest hereby is the question if the crisis intrinsically connected with Hegel's conception of speculative reason, accordingly, should be seen as Hegel's last—relentlessly negative—word (stating the irresistible decomposition of the world) or if, through this very crisis, in the medium of speculative reason something new—a new form of thinking, acting, and living in a new world—is articulated; and, if this was the case, how we should think of this specifically speculative transformation as constitutively mediated by the both logical and historical process of a deep crisis.

The contributions of this workshop aim at examining and critically discussing central aspects of this complex topic from different and new perspectives.●



**Day 1: Thursday, September 28**  
**\*Hörsaal 120**

12:00–12:45

Gregor Schäfer (University of Basel):  
*Welcome Address and Thematic Introduction*

12:45–13:00

*Coffee Break*

13:00–14:30

*Keynote 1:*

Andrew Buchwalter (University of North Florida)  
*Crisis, Critique, and the Temporal Orientation  
of Hegel's Concept of Philosophy*

14:30–15:00

*Coffee Break*

15:00–16:00

Martin Wittwer (University of Freiburg):  
*Absolute Beginning as Crisis*

16:00–17:00

Bernardo Ferro (University of Coimbra):  
*Continuity, Contradiction, Crisis: The Case  
for a Vertical Reading of the Philosophy of Right*

17:00–17:45

*Coffee Break*

17:45–19:15

*Keynote 2:*

Angelica Nuzzo (CUNY):  
*Speculative Thinking and its Dialectic—  
Hegel's Thought in Today's World*

19:30

*Dinner*

**Day 2: Friday, September 29**  
**\*\*Hörsaal 116**

09:30–10:30

Cæcilie Varslev–Pedersen (University of  
Copenhagen):  
*On the 'Golgatha of Absolute Spirit': Crisis and the  
Language of Sacrifice in the Early and Middle Hegel*

10:30–10:45

*Coffee Break*

10:45–11:45

Kevin Thompson (DePaul University):  
*Hegel and the Emaciation of Logic:  
Formalism as Necessary Contingency*

11:45–13:15

*Lunch Break*

13:15–14:15

Tatiana Llaguno Nieves (University of  
Groningen):  
*Freely Constituted Dependencies?  
The Origin of Crises in Hegel's Elements of the  
Philosophy of Right*

14:15–15:15

Bart Zantvoort (Leiden University):  
*When is the Right Time for a Revolution? Hegel on  
Qualitative Leaps and the Persistence of Crisis*

15:15–15:45

*Coffee Break*

15:45–16:45

Ana María Guzmán (KHK: Cultures of  
Research, RWTH Aachen / University of  
Bonn):  
*Real Possibilities and the Crisis of Nature*

16:45–17:00

*Coffee Break*

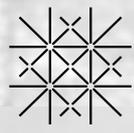
17:00–18:30

*Keynote 3:*

Félix Duque (Autonomous University of  
Madrid):  
*Schwierige Versöhnung: Das Böse und seine  
Verzeihung*

18:30

*End*



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