

## Call for Papers

**International Conference, University of Paderborn, March 15-16, 2024**

### **RORTY AND THE GERMAN TRADITION/RORTY UND DIE DEUTSCHE TRADITION**

**Organized by Sebastian Luft (Paderborn), Lukas Nehlsen, Martin W. Schnell (Witten)**

#### Rationale:

Richard Rorty died in 2007, but his philosophy has proven to have lasting staying power. If anything, his influence has increased, esp. since 2018, when his earlier prescient predictions about the American democracy seemed to ring eerily true. More than just recycling known tropes, especially the volumes that have appeared since his death have shown that there are still many aspects of his work—both philosophically and as public intellectual—that have not been fully appreciated.

One thing that is clear throughout his writings is the influence the German philosophical and intellectual tradition has had on his thought, regardless of his polemics against Kant and Kantianism(s) in its various forms. Apart from Kant himself, the seminal thinkers from the German tradition who have been crucially influential for him are Hegel, Marx, Freud, Carnap, Heidegger, Wittgenstein, and others, including novelists and poets.

This international conference is the attempt to assess this German influence on Rorty's thought as well as his critics and pupils.

Further topics can include, but are not limited to, the following questions and topics:

- Rorty's critique of truth and representationalism;
- Is truth without a correspondence relation to reality attainable?
- Rorty's critique of ethics and his recasting of the enlightenment;
- Can there be a concept of the world without substance or essence?
- The timeliness of Rorty's philosophy with regard to contemporary politics
- Rorty's relation to:
  - o Analytic Philosophy
  - o Phenomenology
  - o Psychoanalysis
  - o Cultural and Literary Studies
  - o Etc.

We invite submissions that touch on these and related topics. Talks should be timed for a 30-minute presentation + discussion. We plan to publish an edited volume of conference papers with a renowned press. The conference will be held at the University of Paderborn.

**Confirmed speakers:**

**Michael Hampe** (Zurich) – *Keynote Speaker*

Philipp Battermann (Cologne/Köln)

Alexis Dianda (Cincinnati)

Burkhard Liebsch (Bochum)

Sebastian Luft (Paderborn)

Lukas Nehlsen (Cologne/Witten)

Martin Schnell (Witten)

Johanna Wischner (Berlin)

Please send your submissions (title, abstract, 500 words max., **English or German**) to Sebastian Luft ([lufts@mail.uni-paderborn.de](mailto:lufts@mail.uni-paderborn.de)). Please indicate in your cover letter your institutional affiliation and status (pre-doc, post-doc, etc.).

**Deadline: December 1, 2023. Accepted speakers will be notified by January 1, 2024.**