

The International Workshop aims for a broad transdisciplinary and transnational discourse to examine nuances of the secular present in the European societies of the 19th and the early 20th centuries. The focus is on freethinkers taken as Europe's outstanding secular avant-gardes, including those of East-Central Europe. Contrasting different forms of secularity, we will analyze and discuss

the ways European freethinkers contributed to the concept of the modern nation and helped defining its specifics and values. Thereby, the workshop traces the rooting of the secular projects and sheds light on a set of heterogeneous religious, social and cultural backgrounds as well as the projects concrete designs such as the promotion of a material-scientific world view or initiatives to leave church.

Figs. on the left: Wilhelm Ostwald; The Universal Church of the Future (Puck, Illustriertes Humoristisches Wochenblatt, February 1883).

On the right: Strike Call against State Church ("Vorwärts", 28 October 1913);

Inauguration of the Statue of Giordano Bruno, 1889, Campo de' Fiori, Rome; Jakob Moleschott.

Conference venue

Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom
Istituto Storico Germanico di Roma
Via Aurelia Antica, 391
I-00165 Roma
www.dhi-roma.it

Contact

Dr. Carolin Kosuch
kosuch@dhi-roma.it



Secularities. Freethinkers in the Context of National Movements and the Rise of Nation States in Europe, 1789–1920s

International Workshop
Rome, 21 – 23 March 2018

Wednesday, 21 March, 14.00–19.00

14.00 Martin Baumeister | Roma
Welcome

Carolin Kosuch | Roma
Introduction "Secularism and Freethought from a European Perspective"

I - Freethought in European National Movements

Chair: Viviana Mellone | Napoli

14.30 Anton Jansson | Göteborg
Tracing the Genealogy of Modern Secular Sweden: Late 19th Century Secularists on the Nation and the State

14.55 Yuval Jobani | Tel-Aviv
Jewish Secularisms and the Building of the Hebrew Nation (1904–1922)

15.20 Barbara Wagner | Warszawa
New Country. Poland for and against Freethinkers

15.45 Daniela Haarmann | Wien
The Hungarian Republic of Letters – The Magyarization of Hungary in the early 1800's

16.15 Coffee Break

16.45 Todd Weir | Groningen
Commentary, Discussion

18.00 *Keynote Lecture*

Detlef Pollack | Münster
Secularization – A Contentious Concept in the Historical and Social Sciences

Reception

Thursday, 22 March, 9.30–18.00

II - Networks and Organizations of Freethought: National and Transnational

Chair: Árpád von Klimó | Washington

9.30 Daniel Laqua | Newcastle
"The Most Advanced Nation on the Road to Liberty": Nationalism and the International Freethought Federation

9.55 Johannes Gleixner | München
Diverging Secularities between the Nation and the Movement: The "International of Proletarian Free-Thinkers" in Central and Eastern Europe during the 1920s in a National and International Framework

10.20 Katharina Neef | Leipzig, Chemnitz
The *Komitee Konfessionslos*. The Politicization of Leaving Church in the early 20th Century

10.45 Jessica R. Strom | Mansfield (Connecticut)
Nationalists Abroad: Adriano Lemmi, Giuseppe Mazzini, and Lajos Kossuth

11.15 Coffee Break

11.45 Fulvio Conti | Firenze
Commentary, Discussion

12.45 Lunch Break

14.00 *Midday-Lectures*

Monika Wohlrab-Sahr | Leipzig
Multiple Secularities: A Comparative Perspective on the Study of Religion and its Other

Todd Weir | Groningen
Two Cultures Debate: Secularism and Socialism in Germany 1870 to 1933

15.00 Short Coffee Break

III - Identities and Practices of Freethought

Chair: Costanza D'Elia | Cassino

15.15 Laura Fournier Finocchiaro | Paris
Garibaldi and Mazzini: Anticlericalism, Laicism, and the Concept of a National Religion

15.40 Antoine Mandret-Degeilh | Toulouse, Paris
A Secular Avant-Garde? About the Unknown Freethinker Roots of Today's French Civil Baptism

16.05 Christhardt Henschel | Warszawa
Cultures of Reading. Self-Images of Polish Freethinkers

16.30 Coffee Break

17.00 Jakub Basista | Kraków
Commentary, Discussion

20.00 Dinner for all Participants

Friday, 23 March, 9.15–14.00

IV - Projects. Freethought, Science and Politics

Chair: Thomas Blanck | Köln

9.15 Carolin Kosuch | Roma
Cremation and the Material Culture of 19th Century European Freethought

9.40 Claus Spenninger | München
Vestiges of a Secular Movement: Scientific Materialism in the 1850s between Emancipation and Technocracy

10.05 Christoffer Leber | München
Integration through Science? The Monist Movement in Imperial Germany between Nationalism and Internationalism (1910–1915)

10.30 Katalin Straner | Firenze, Southampton
Evolution and Nation in the Press: The Hungarian Reception of Darwinism before and after the *Ausgleich* (1859–1875)

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 Rebekka Habermas | Göttingen
Commentary, Discussion

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Final Roundtable with Monika Wohlrab-Sahr | Leipzig

14.00 End of Conference