

# RECHT erKant.



## Call for Papers

**Recht erKant: Workshop in St. Gallen**

**on 20 November 2024 in the afternoon**

This year marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of Immanuel Kant (1724-1804). His numerous writings set strong impulses in epistemology, moral philosophy, aesthetics and political philosophy. They had a lasting influence on the project of the Enlightenment. The starting point of Kantian philosophy is the individual as a rational being. By the power of their specific cognitive abilities, humans locate themselves in the world and self-constitute their identity. As is well known, this was Kant's response to the dispute between empiricists and rationalists. Kant's outlook – in particular the idea of intersubjectively valid judgments and the theoretical reappraisal leading to them – contains a revolutionary assumption about the validity of the individual's perspective on the world.

Herewith, Kant opens up the field of tension between individual self-conception and species-universal determination of each person. This marks a problem that is as relevant today as it has ever been. According to Kantian philosophy, there are certain contents that connect and oblige human beings regardless of their personal biographies and individual socialization. Not every judgment about the world is equally accurate. Kant formulates certain substantive requirements that judgments must meet in order for them to be able to claim objective validity. Accordingly, knowledge and its production are associated with concrete expectations about the genesis of judgments. This generates sophisticated anthropological, epistemological and moral-philosophical theses that are still controversially discussed today.

This workshop aims at examining and critically assessing, primarily, the epistemological corpus of Kantian philosophy. The focus is on the question of whether and to what extent the theses developed by Kant on knowledge production, cognitive processes and the status of assertions and imperatives are still convincing. To what extent is Kant's an accurate reconstruction of conclusions and derivations of valid knowledge? To what extent is the gain of knowledge itself shaped by normativity? Is this a contemporary and appropriate answer to the individualizing tendencies in our current world? Against the background of these questions, cross-connections to moral philosophy and Kant's legal doctrine as well as to the concept of normativity are welcome.

### **Organizational details**

The workshop is primarily aimed at doctoral students and post-docs in law and philosophy. But it is open to interested parties from all disciplines. You are invited to write a contribution in the above-mentioned topic area in advance and to present it during the workshop (15-20 min) in such a way that a plenary discussion can be held afterwards. The respective text will be sent to another participant in advance so that he or she can prepare a short commentary, so as to kick-start the discussion. The texts can be written and presentations held in German, French or English. If participants are interested, the contributions could be published in an anthology.

Please send your abstract of max. 500 words by

**19 July 2024**

to [pascal.meier@ius.uzh.ch](mailto:pascal.meier@ius.uzh.ch) or [matthias.haechler@ius.uzh.ch](mailto:matthias.haechler@ius.uzh.ch).

Contributions will have been selected by the end of July 2024. The deadline for submitting the written contributions (10-15 text pages) is 20 October 2024.

We plan to reimburse participants' travel expenses, at least in part.



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Zürich** <sup>UZH</sup>

Sponsored by the Faculty of Law  
of the University of Zurich

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