
LEBENSPHILOSOPHIE
AND THE SCIENCES
11-12 SEPT 2025 ||
GHENT

Lebensphilosophie and the Sciences



Extract of A.R. Penck. (1965) "ein mögliches System". Köln, Museum Ludwig

GHENT UNIVERSITY || FACULTY ARTS AND PHILOSOPHY
PART OF FWO-PROJECT G007222N
HICO

Lebensphilosophie or “Philosophy of Life” as a movement in the history of philosophy is difficult to characterize. Many of the philosophers associated with the movement (such as Nietzsche, Dilthey, or Eucken) never identified their own work by using the term, and as such the movement has largely been used by later authors in order to draw attention to shared features of their thought. One such shared feature that is often cited is a general anti-scientific tendency.

This stress on the aspects of Lebensphilosophie that are critical of science has led many of its students to overlook Lebensphilosophie’s origins in developments in the natural and human sciences of its time.

For this reason, little attention has been paid to the movement’s epistemology and its philosophy of science, with its general reception largely limited to its moral and practical dimensions. This workshop aims to contribute to closing this gap through a better understanding of the philosophy of science and epistemology at stake in Lebensphilosophie.

Location: Blandijnberg 2, 9000 Gent

Lunches and drinks during the workshop are provided by the organisation.

Conference dinner on the 11th is to be paid at the workshop (€65; includes three dishes and adjusted drinks).

Please register via e-mail: dries.josten@ugent.be

10 SEPTEMBER

19.00 - 21.30 Opening reception @ Blandijnberg 2, Second Floor

11 SEPTEMBER || DAY 1

9.00 - 9.30 Welcome + Coffee

9.30 - 10.30 **Keynote:**

Dr. Maurizio Esposito (Università degli Studi di Milano)

Life in the Machine: Exploring Techno-Vitalisms in the 19th and 20th Centuries

10.30 - 10.45 Coffee Break

10.45 - 12.15 **First Session of Presentations**

Ela Praznik (University of Ljubljana) - Creative Normativity and the Limits of Naturalization: Canguilhem and Contemporary Enactivism

Jan Warndorff (Independent Researcher) - Ortega's Understanding of the Phenomenon of Life and his Conception and the Practice of Vital Reason

Dr. Dennis Sölch (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf) - Critique of Abstractions and Speculative Generalizations. Whitehead's Philosophy of Organism at the intersection of Physics and Biology

12.15 - 13.45 Lunch Break

13.45-14.45 **Keynote:**

Prof. Arantza Etxeberria (University of the Basque Country)

- Kropotkin's Legacy and Lebensphilosophie: Interdependencies, Environment, Plasticity

14.45-15.45 Second Session of Presentations:

Henriika Hannula (Université de Genève) - The Walls of Facticity. Dilthey's Voluntarism and Philosophy of Life

Kyrke Otto (Radboud Universiteit) - Meta-philosophical and expressive tenets in Lebensphilosophie

15.45 - 16.15 Coffee Break

16.15-17.15 Keynote:

Dr. Andreas Vrahimis - TBA

19.00 Conference Dinner @ De Kunst (Oudburg 40, Ghent)

9.00-9.30 Morning Coffee

9.30-10.30 Keynote:

Dr. Franscesca Micheline (Universität Kassel) - The Reception of Jakob von Uexküll in Ecological Psychology and Enactivism

10.30-10.45 Coffee Break

10.45-12.15 Third Session of Presentations:

Dr. Andrea Cimino (KU Leuven) - Rudolf Eucken on the Relation
between Life, Science, and Philosophy

Dr. Christopher Myers (Fordham University) -
Lebensphilosophie Before the 19th-Century. The Influence of
Lebensphilosophie on Classical German Philosophy

Dr. Alberto Farias (Independent Researcher) - The Kantian
roots of Simmel's philosophy of life

12.15-13.45 Lunch Break

13.45-14.45 Keynote:

Dr. Boris Demarest (LMU München) - Nietzsche's Heterodox Naturalism
and the Philosophy of Life

14.45 - 16.00 Concluding Remarks:

Prof. Gertrudis Van de Vijver (Ghent University)

Prof. Charles Wolfe (Université de Toulouse Jean-Jaurès)

Prof. Giuseppe Bianco (Cà Foscari University)

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Members of the Scientific Committee:

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Prof. Charles Wolfe (Université de Toulouse Jean-Jaurès)

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