



Photo: Österreichische Nationalbibliothek/Bildarchiv

Flight from anti-semitic riots, 1933



Photo: Archiv der Universität Wien

University of Vienna today

We would like to sincerely thank the following for sponsoring or helping to finance this project through third-party funding:

- RD FOUNDATION VIENNA
- ZIT – THE TECHNOLOGY AGENCY OF THE CITY OF VIENNA
- ÖBB – ÖSTERREICHISCHE BUNDESBAHNEN
- MA 7 – CITY OF VIENNA, CULTURAL DEPARTMENT – SCIENCE AND RESEARCH PROMOTION
- PALMERS IMMOBILIEN
- ZF – ZUKUNFTSFONDS DER REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH
- WKO – AUSTRIAN ECONOMIC CHAMBERS
- HANNES ANDROSCH STIFTUNG BEI DER ÖAW
- BMFW – FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SCIENCE RESEARCH AND ECONOMY
- CLAUDIA OETKER
- WWTF – VIENNA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FUND
- BM BF – AUSTRIAN FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND WOMEN'S AFFAIRS
- UNIQA INSURANCE GROUP AG
- GPA-DJP – UNION OF PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES, GRAPHICAL WORKERS AND JOURNALISTS
- LÖFFLER GMBH
- BACKHAUSEN GMBH
- ÖSTERREICHISCHER GEWERKSCHAFTSBUND

RD Foundation Vienna
Research | Development | Human Rights
Gemeinnützige Privatstiftung



Curators: Karl Sigmund
Friedrich Stadler
Architecture: Hermann Czech
Digital Media: Peter Weibel
Scientific Collaborator: Christoph Limbeck-Lilienau
Graphics: Bea Laufersweiler

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue, a companion book and a monograph (in German and English).

Admission: 8 € / reduced: 4 € / schoolchildren, students and members of the University of Vienna: free / group visits and guided tours are available upon request:

E-Mail: ivc@univie.ac.at

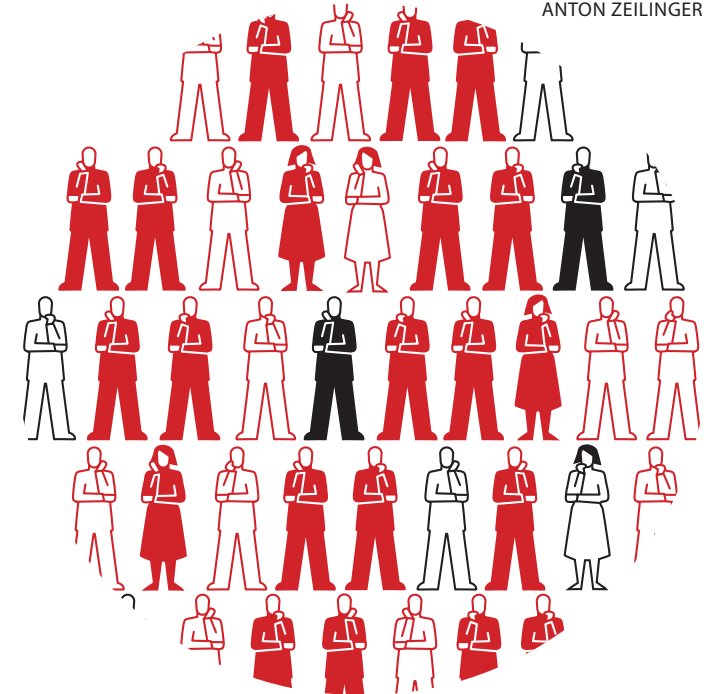
<http://www.univie.ac.at/AusstellungWienerKreis>

© Universität Wien / 2015



Honorary patronage:
HEINZ FISCHER
Federal President
of the Republic
of Austria

Honorary Committee:
CARL DJERASSI †
MARTIN KARPLUS
WALTER KOHN
HELGA NOWOTNY
PETER PULZER
EDWARD TIMMS
ERIKA WEINZIERL †
ANTON ZEILINGER



THE VIENNA CIRCLE

EXACT THINKING
IN DEMENTED TIMES

20.05. – 31.10.2015 / EXHIBITION
UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA, MAIN BUILDING

On weekdays and Saturdays 10 am to 6 pm

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 650TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

Organizer:
UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

Project coordination:
JUBILEE OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

IN COOPERATION WITH:



Institute Vienna Circle,
University of Vienna



The Department of Typography
and Graphic Communication,
University of Reading



ZKM | Center for Art and Media,
Karlsruhe

BOOK EXHIBITION / BOOK SALE:



Shakespeare & Company,
Booksellers, Vienna

ABOUT THE VIENNA CIRCLE

In 1924, a philosopher (Moritz Schlick), a mathematician (Hans Hahn) and a social reformer (Otto Neurath) founded a philosophical circle in Vienna.

The group discussed questions such as: how can the efficiency of mathematics be explained? What is the role of logical propositions? What is the basis of scientific knowledge?

Young thinkers such as Kurt Gödel, Rudolf Carnap or Karl Menger joined the group, while others (such as Karl Popper or Oskar Morgenstern) were close associates. The circle quickly became the center of logical empiricism. It had close contacts with Albert Einstein, Bertrand Russell and Ludwig Wittgenstein. The topics discussed by the circle were soon taken up in Prague and Berlin, Cambridge and Harvard.

The public phase of the Vienna Circle began in 1929, with the Ernst Mach Society. The Vienna Circle quickly became a popular target of antisemitic and reactionary currents at the University of Vienna, and the political surroundings turned increasingly adverse.



Moritz Schlick

Hans Hahn

Otto Neurath

In 1934, Hahn died. Neurath was forced into exile. Schlick was murdered in 1936 by a former student. The Vienna Circle dissolved even before the Nazi takeover and it never succeeded in regaining a foothold in Vienna after the war. It did, however, continue to exert a decisive influence on the intellectual and scientific history of the 20th century.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Visualizing philosophy is a challenge for multi-media science communication, but we are fortunate to be able to use Peter Weibel's 'augmented reality' installations to present a rich store of images, documents and texts.

A central part of our exhibition will be devoted to the history of the racist and political persecution of intellectuals and scholars, leading to the exodus of the Vienna Circle and the brutal suppression of Vienna's 'Golden Autumn'. Many of the central topics of the Vienna Circle are still with us. There is a direct line leading from the abstract investigations of Carnap and Gödel on symbolic logic to programmed computers and the algorithms governing our life today.

The 'Vienna pictorial statistics' (Isotype) of Neurath led to the pictograms that continue to direct streams of passengers all over the world. The Circle also had close contacts with eminent writers and architects. There was a tight connection with quantum physics and with Albert Einstein (Schlick was Einstein's prophet and 'Hausphilosoph', and Gödel became Einstein's best friend).

During the first half of the last century, Vienna's role in philosophy was crucial. In the constellation of Mach,

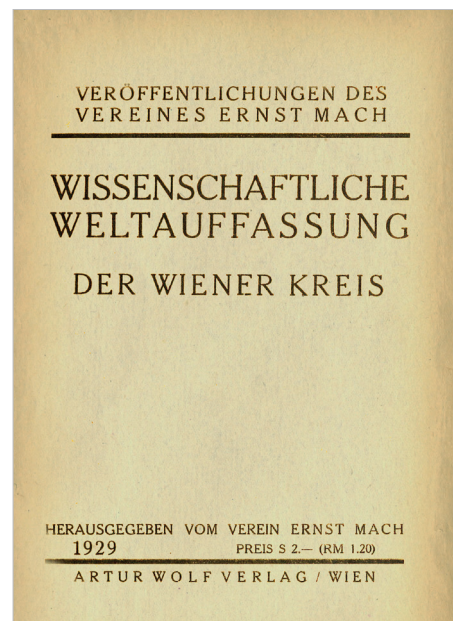


Photo: Institut Wiener Kreis

Manifesto

Boltzmann, Wittgenstein, Gödel and Popper, the Vienna Circle was a leading player. Its history includes murder and suicide, persecution and nervous breakdowns, and is fuelled by heated controversies, ranging from the debate between Mach and Boltzmann about the reality of atoms to the fierce clash between Popper and Wittgenstein about whether philosophical problems exist at all. The exhibition will deal with the extraordinary intellectual and cultural feats that led to the emergence of the Vienna Circle. At the same time, it will also take a closer look at the terrible ravages of political fanaticism and anti-semitism, and the ruthless destruction of a pinnacle of exact thinking. Last not least, the exhibition will reveal the international impact that the Vienna Circle would have.

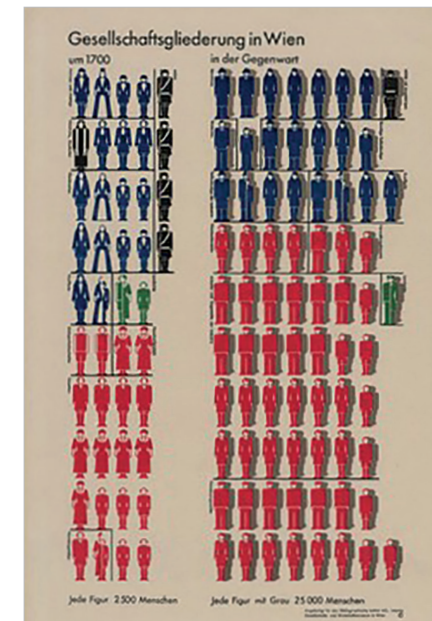


Photo: Institut Wiener Kreis

Pictorial statistics by Otto Neurath and Marie Reidemeister