



Symposium for Philosophic-Cultural Studies

Vienna (A), 8.–11. 09.2005

Rationality – A Placebo of Truth?

The term 'rationality' has broken away from its traditional holistic philosophical usage for quite some time. In the course of time different forms of usage have developed, every one relating to its own scientific, cultural or social context. The question whether one can even speak of one rationality as such has been raised backed by the appearance of a multitude of "rationalities" signifying that there might not be just one truth to the matter.

How has this issue been dealt with in the past, how is it treated today? Should the concept 'truth' on the one hand be reduced to only one meaning? Should its usage be restricted to a certain area of thinking, thereby restricting the term in its validity? Or should we on the other hand deconstruct it and see it as a paradox difference? Which agents, which socio-historic structures, which ruling doctrine and whose claims to power form the foundation of a term 'rationality' that calls itself "neutral"? Which dangers are hidden behind the one-sided dominance of a goal-oriented rationalized way of thinking? Which role does language as a medium play: Is rationality rooted in language and if it is-how? How does language express rationality? In what ways does rationality enter as well as determine social reality? What paths are there that lead us out of solely rationally determined structures? How can we comprehend the relationship between rationality and religion, art, everyday language, myth and emotion?

At the second annual philosophical academy, we will try to establish an interdisciplinary approach to discuss different meanings of 'rationality'. Underlying assumptions connected to the term will be revealed. Another focus of the conference will be the power of the concept 'rationality' as well as its limitations. Moreover, we will look at the potential and dangers of the term from a multitude of angles.

Students and young researchers from all fields of study are cordially invited to join the conference. Please send your four to five page abstract forming the basis of a fifty-minute presentation and also enclose a short curriculum vitae stating your field of study and special interests.

For more detailed information look up our homepage at

<http://www.philak.net>

Send applications to:
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Please bear in mind that only applications that reach us by

April 30th, 2005

will be considered.