

**Congress of the Max-Scheler-Gesellschaft /  
German-French Workshop for Young Scholars**

**“Max Scheler in the Debates on Europe”**

**Paris, Faculté des Lettres, Sorbonne Université, June 16-18, 2022**

**(with the support of the Franco-German University and in cooperation with the University  
of Wuppertal and the European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder)**

Thinking about Europe in the period between the two World Wars has already been carried out many times, but mainly as a prehistory of the process of European unification, seen primarily as a political and economic project. Less attention has been paid to the philosophical and intellectual roots of the various ideas of what constitutes Europe. In these days when the European Union and liberal democracy are again being challenged, it is important to reconstruct the debates of the 1920s and 1930s; among other things, for a better understanding of the current situation. At the end of her book on German concepts of Europe, Vanessa Conze rightly called for more attention to the historical “ideas of Europe”<sup>1</sup>, and the recent publication of a philosophical handbook on Europe confirms the relevance of the issue<sup>2</sup>.

The importance of Max Scheler in the debates on Europe in the interwar period has rarely been appreciated to date. However, it is an undeniable fact that, as a philosopher, Max Scheler was embedded in a broad European intellectual context, as his sustained interest in French philosophy and the reception of his works in various European countries shows. He was involved in numerous European philosophical networks and collaborated with journals which placed the European idea at the centre of their editorial programmes. It is highly significant that Scheler, together with other thinkers, developed an original concept of European identity, while criticising Eurocentrism and analysing the globalisation of the world. Max Scheler’s thinking about Europe, which emerged during the First World War, continued to develop in the post-war and inter-war years. Accordingly, the aim of this colloquium/congress is to analyse the European dimension in Max Scheler’s philosophy, and to contextualise it within the broader intellectual debates on Europe.

It is expected that during the colloquium/congress and workshop, the following five topics will be the focus of discussion:

- a) The idea of Europe and the discourse regarding the cultural crisis;
- b) Conceptions of European identity in the interwar period;
- c) The political dimension of the discourse on Europe;
- d) Scheler’s critique of Eurocentrism in connection with his analysis of globalisation and idea of the leveling of cultures,
- e) Max Scheler’s phenomenology as a European project and the European reception of his works.

The event is supported by the Franco-German University and is primarily aimed at doctoral students and postdocs. The presentations, preferably in German or French, should last no more than 20 minutes (followed by 20-30 minutes of questions/discussion).

Please send your paper proposals in French, German or English together with a brief abstract and CV (max. 2500 characters) by March 15., 2022, simultaneously to all three of the following e-mail addresses:

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<sup>1</sup> „Daher ist diese Studie auch als Plädoyer dafür zu lesen, Europakonzepte stärker als bisher in ihrer Vielgestaltigkeit, ihren nationalen Verankerungen, genauso wie in ihren internationalen Bezügen zu begreifen“ (Vanessa Conze, *Das Europa der Deutschen: Ideen von Europa in Deutschland zwischen Reichstradition und Westorientierung (1920-1970)*, München, Oldenburg, 2005, p. 403).

<sup>2</sup> Darian Meacham, Nicolas de Warren, eds., *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy and Europe*, 2021.

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