

The Moralization of Science

Conference at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna (Austria), Anton-Zeilinger-Salon, September 17 and 18, 2026

Conveners: Daniel Brewing & Elke Seefried (RWTH Aachen), Alexander Bogner (Austrian Academy of Sciences), Axel Jansen (GHI Washington)

Organization: Barbara Grimpe & Melanie Baumann (HumTec, RWTH Aachen)

Sept. 17, 2026

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 10:00 a.m. | Arrival and Check-in |
| 10:30 – 10:45 a.m. | Welcome Remarks |
| 10:45 – 11:00 a.m. | Introduction by Conveners |
| 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Panel I: Cold War Science
(Chair: N.N.)

Cora Schmidt-Ott (Freiburg), „Huntington vs. Chomsky: Competing Models of Intellectual Responsibility in the Postwar United States”

William Krause (Vanderbilt, Nashville), „Persons and Science: Carl Rogers’ Philosophy of Science and Its Afterlives” |
| 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. | Lunch Break |
| 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. | Panel II: Environmental Sciences
(Chair: N.N.)

Etienne Benson (MPI Wissenschaftsgeschichte Berlin), „Operationalizing Environmental Ethics after NEPA (1970 National Environmental Policy Act)“

Lisa Blum (HU Berlin), „Ethics and Environmental Crisis in West Germany, 1970-1990” |
| 3:00-3:30 p.m. | Coffee Break |
| 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. | Panel III: „Development” and Indigenous Knowledge
(Chair: N.N.)

Pai-Li Liu (LMU Munich), „Moralizing Development Science: Theodor Dams and the Moral Implications of the West German Agricultural Economics in the 1970s”

Silvan Niedermeier (Erfurt), „A flagrant violation of [...] the moral conscience of all civilized peoples.’ The conflict between Indigenous |

groups and scientists on the return of Ancestral Remains in the 1980s United States”

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. **Keynote, Festsaal, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (in German)**

Chair: Alexander Bogner

Caspar Hirschi (St. Gallen): Keynote

Sept. 18, 2026

9:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Panel IV: Morality, Science, and Ethics**

(Chair: N.N.)

David Bates (Stanford), „Computing and Moralization: An Intellectual History of Computer Science and Ethics”

Adam Knowles (Zürich), „A Moral Science without Content: The Politics of Apolitical Philosophy”

Helmut Staubmann (Innsbruck), „‘Eu-Ethos’ and ‘Dis-Ethos:’ The Example of Academic Institutions“

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. **Panel V: Morality, Science, and Free Speech**

(Chair: N.N.)

Kärin Nickelsen (LMU Munich), „‘Mother Trees and Screaming Cabbages’: The Morality of Plant Intelligence Research “

Tim Henning (Mainz), title tbd

2:30 – 3:00 p.m. **Concluding Discussion**

3:00 p.m. End of Conference