

## ***Wolff's "German Ethics" – New Approaches and Perspectives***

14.–16. Oktober 2021, IZEA, Halle (Saale)

The 300th anniversary of the publication of Christian Wolff's *Vernünfftige Gedancken von der Menschen Thun und Lassen* ('Deutsche Ethik,' 1720) is an excellent occasion to take a fresh look at the text. This is especially true given Wolff's practical philosophy is still somewhat neglected by scholars of many varieties, at least compared to his theoretical philosophy. This conference aims at remedying this deficiency by exploring systematically pertinent issues in Wolff's 'German Ethics,' such as the question of how perfection relates to happiness, the role of pleasure in (moral) motivation, and Wolff's conception of normativity and 'natural obligation.' In this context, questions concerning the relation of Wolff's ethics to that of his predecessors and contemporaries, such as Leibniz, are also of interest. Wolff owes his conception of perfection, for example, to Leibniz. The conference has the further goal of providing historically and systematically robust interpretations of Wolff's practical philosophy in order to (1) better understand the contours of his philosophy in relation to the larger 18<sup>th</sup>-century philosophical landscape; and (2) shed light on issues in contemporary practical philosophy, e.g. the normativity of practical reasons and the difference between motivating and justifying reasons.

### **Speakers:**

Stefano Bacin – Obligations to Others and the Pursuit of the Highest Good in Wolff's Ethics

Corey Dyck – Wolff's Moral Anthropology and Theory of Human Nature

Matteo Favaretti Camposampiero – Objective Morality: Essence, Perfection, and Nature in Wolff's Practical Philosophy

Courtney Fugate – Wolff's Ethical Experimentalism and Its Roots in his German Ethics

Ursula Goldenbaum – The Meaning of Wolff's Powerful Concept of *Perfection* for his Ethics

Frank Grunert – The Relationship between Ethics and Natural Law in the Practical Philosophy of Christian Wolff: Differences and Congruencies

Paul Guyer – Perfectionism in Practice: Wolff and Kant

Dieter Hüning – The Place of Law in Wolff's Practical Philosophy

Timothy Rosenkoetter – The Problem of Order in Wolff's Ethics

Paola Rumore – Wolff's theory of happiness and its influence on Meier's work

Sonja Schierbaum – Wolff's conception of moral improvement

Clemens Schwaiger – The Systematic Organization of Wolff's German Ethics in Historical Context

Emanuel Lanzini Stobbe – Is Christian Wolff's practical philosophy eudemonistic?

Michael Walschots – Ignorance Is Vice: Wolff on the Moral Duty to Know Nature

John Walsh – The Role of Judgement in Wolff's Account of Moral Agency