



Kurt H. Wolff and Existential Truths

Villa Vigoni-Gespräch in den Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften im Rahmen einer Vereinbarung mit der DFG

Villa Vigoni, October 28th-31st 2013

"Die Villa Vigoni-Gespräche gelten Themen, die die aktuellen Debatten zur Kultur, Geschichte und Gesellschaft Europas vertiefen. Im Mittelpunkt steht die intensive Auseinandersetzung im Gespräch, die sich bewußt von den üblichen Konferenzformaten unterscheidet."

"I Colloqui di Villa Vigoni intendono prendere in considerazione temi che mirino ad approfondire il dibattito attuale nei campi della cultura, della storia e della società europee. Il tratto caratterizzante dei Colloqui è l'intenso confronto dialogico, un formato volutamente scelto per la sua distanza dai convegni di tipo tradizionale."

Coordination: Prof. Consuelo Corradi, Lumsa University, Rome; Prof. Dr. Peter Ludes, Jacobs University Bremen

Program

October 28th, 2013

Arrival and check in until 19.00

19.00: Welcome Cocktail and Dinner

October 29th, 2013

9.00-13.00

Short Opening Address by Immacolata Amodeo, Villa Vigoni

Short Introduction by Peter Ludes, Jacobs University Bremen

Panel 1: Kurt H. Wolff and the Sociology of Knowledge

Chair: Vittorio Cotesta, University Roma 3

David Kettler, Bard College, and VolkerMeja, Memorial University Newfoundland: *Sociologist-in-Exile? Kurt H. Wolff in America* (presentation will last 40 minutes, plus 15 minutes discussion)

Alessandro Cavalli, University of Pavia: *Jewish Identity and anti-Semitism*

Sandro Segre, University of Genova: *On Kurt H. Wolff's interpretation of Mannheim*

Mario Aldo Toscano, University of Pisa: *Mannheim in Italy: Croce, Wolff and post-war revival.*

All (individual) presentations will last about 20 minutes and about 10 minutes of discussions on the paper given.

Short final discussion.

13.00: Lunch

14.30-18.30

Panel 2: Kurt H. Wolff as an Artist and a Critical Sociologist

Chair: Sandro Segre, University of Genova

At the beginning of Panel 2, we will show an audiovisual presentation of the “Anguillara Drawings”, which were made during his visit to Italy in 1991, on the lake of Anguillara. Before going back to the USA, Wolff photocopied the drawings and gave the copies to his friend Anna Maria Levi (Primo’s sister); Levi bequeathed them to Onorina Del Vecchio. The original “Anguillara Drawings” are now in the archives of the University of Constance.

Consuelo Corradi, Lumsa University (Rome): *Modernity, Transcendence, and the Human World. The relevance of Kurt H. Wolff's existential sociology for the diagnosis of our time* (cannot be held, draft distributed)

Frank Welz, Innsbruck University: *Rethinking sociology in the nuclear age. Kurt H. Wolff's Vindication of the Human Subject*

Dan Ferrand-Bechman, Université Paris 8: *Observations on Kurt H. Wolff's sociology of evil*

Roberto Cipriani, University Roma 3: *Surrender-and-catch as a method for qualitative sociology.*

Individual presentations will last about 20 minutes and about 10 minutes of discussions on the paper given.

Short final discussion.

19.00 Opening of exhibition of drawings by Piero Gaudi and Kurt H. Wolff

Introductory words by Immacolata Amodeo, Giovanni Meda Riquier, Villa Vigoni, and Peter Ludes

20.00: Dinner

October 30th, 2013

9.00-13.00

Panel 3: Kurt H. Wolff between Germany and Italy

Chair: Volker Meja, Memorial University Newfoundland

Leonardo Allodi, University of Bologna: *The problem of the "recession of objective reason" in the sociology of knowledge of K. Mannheim and K.H. Wolff*

Donatella Pacelli, Lumsa University: *Limits, legitimacy and spirit of the time during anti-fascist Italy. The crisis of humankind in Guglielmo Ferrero: an intellectual "au dessus de la mêlée"*

Onorina Del Vecchio, Lumsa University (Rome): *Kurt H. Wolff and Italy: Tracing a fleeing spirit on his way back home.*

Meron Biruk Beshewamyeh and Dominique Brockman, both Jacobs University Bremen: *Literature, migration and exile in the beginning of the 21st century*

Individual presentations will last about 20 minutes and about 10 minutes of discussions on the paper given. Short final discussion.

12.00: A tour on the Villa Vigoni grounds

Guided by Caterina Sala Vitale

13.00: Lunch

14.30-17.30

Panel 4: Conclusions for Globalizing Discourses

Chair: Frank Welz, Innsbruck University

Peter Ludes, Jacobs University Bremen: *Existential truths for a globalizing discourse theory*

Martin Endreß, University of Trier: *Existential Truths and Human Studies*

Winfried Nöth, Catholic University of Sao Paulo: *Wolff's concept of existential truth compared to Peirce's pragmatic concept of truth*

Vittorio Cotesta, University Roma 3: *Surrender-and-Catch: Marco Ricci's no return voyage to China.*

Comments on our Symposium by Onorina Del Vecchio, Lumsa University (Rome), Jayson Grimes, and Sher Baz Khan, both Jacobs University Bremen. Short final discussion.

Individual presentations will last about 20 minutes and about 10 minutes of discussions on the paper given.

19.30: Dinner

October 31st, 2013 Breakfast and departure