

Wolffian Natural Law: A Contested Identity?

International conference of Natural Law 1625-1850. An International Research Project in collaboration with Max Weber Centre for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, University of Erfurt, and Interdisciplinary Centre for European Enlightenment Studies, University of Halle-Wittenberg.

Venue: Max-Weber-Kolleg für kultur- und sozialwissenschaftliche Studien, University of Erfurt, Small Conference Room (C19.00.04), C19 - Forschungsbau "Weltbeziehungen", Max-Weber-Allee 3, Erfurt

Time: 5.3-6.3. 2025

Organisers: Mads Langballe Jensen, Mikkel Munthe Jensen, Martin Kühnel

Duration: 2 Days

Start Time: 9:00 each day

Participants: 20 (17 speakers + 3 guest chairs)

Paper Duration: 45 minutes per speaker (30 minutes presentation/15 minutes Q/A)

Accommodation and Travel Cost: Covered by DFG

Wednesday 05.03.2025

09:00–09:05 | Welcome on behalf of MWK by Elisabeth Begemann

09:05–09:15 | Opening Remarks by Mads Langballe Jensen, Mikkel Munthe Jensen and Martin Kühnel

Section 1: Wolffian Identity

Chair: Martin Kühnel (Halle)

09:15–09:30 | Frank Grunert (Halle): Basic Ideas of Wolff's Natural Law

09:30–10:15 | Stefan Lorenz (Münster): "Wolffianisierende" Juristen: Prosopographie bei Carl Günther Ludovici (1707-1778) und in anderen Handbüchern der Zeit.

10:15–10:30 | *Coffee Break*

Section 2: Wolffian Natural Law at the University of Halle

Chair: Mikkel Munthe Jensen

10:30–11:15 | Martin Kühnel (Halle): Christoph Andreas Büttner: Wolffische Philosophie im Tarnmantel an der Universität Halle

11:15–12:00 | Dieter Hüning (Trier): Georg Friedrich Meiers "Recht der Natur" und seine Bedeutung für die Unterscheidung von Recht und Ethik

12:00–12:45 | Frank Grunert (Halle): Juridical Wolffianism. The Function of Natural Law in the Work of Daniel Nettelblatt

12:45–13:45 | *Lunch*

Section 3: Wolffian Natural Law at the Universities of Göttingen and Bützow

Chair: Hans Erich Bödeker (Göttingen)

13:45–14:30 | Stefan Klingner (Göttingen): Sukzessive Abkehr von Wolff. Achenwalls Naturrecht zwischen 1750 und 1758

14:30–15:15 | Mikkel Munthe Jensen (Halle): Wolffian natural law in Bützow? The case of Adolf Friedrich Trendelenburg, 1762-1774

15:15– 15:45 | *Coffee Break*

Section 4: Wolffian Natural Law in Berlin

Chair: Frank Grunert (Halle)

15:45–16:30 | Annelie Große (Berlin): Wolffian natural law for a French Huguenot public: Samuel Formey's adaptation of the *Ethica*

16:30–17:15 | Martin Brecher (Göttingen): Wolffianische Elemente in der Naturrechtsauffassung Friedrichs II

17:15–18:00 | Ursula Goldenbaum (Atlanta): Moses Mendelssohn on Contract, Oath, and Freedom. His Idiosyncratic Adoption of Wolff's and Leibniz's Natural Right

19:00 | *Dinner*

Thursday 06.03.2025

Section 5: A Wolffian Voice in the Swiss Romande

Chair: Pärtel Piirimäe (Tartu)

09:00–09:45 | Radek Szymanski (Lausanne): The aporias of Emer de Vattel's early Wolffianism: between Leibnizian metaphysics and Pufendorfian civil philosophy?

09:45–10:30 | Henri Otsing (Tartu): Wolff, Vattel and Freedom as a Faculty

10:30–11:00 | *Coffee Break*

Section 6: Wolffian Natural Law in Central-Eastern Europe

Chair: Mads Langballe Jensen (Lund)

11:00–11:45 | Ivo Cerman (South Bohemia): Freedom of the Will and Wolff's Reception in the Catholic Context

11:45–12:30 | Gábor Gángó (Erfurt/Budapest): Wolffianism and natural law in Gdansk: Michael Christoph Hanov in East-Central European context

12:30–13:30 | *Lunch*

13:30–14:15 | Waldmann, Felix (Cambridge): Wolff and Wolffianism in Sicily and Naples, ca. 1700-ca.1770 [online]

Section 7: Wolffian Natural Law in Scandinavia

Chair: Martin Mulsow (Erfurt)

14:15–15:00 | Mads Langballe Jensen (Lund): *Asseclae Wolffii?* Early Wolffian natural law at the University of Copenhagen 1734-1742

15:30–16:00 | *Coffee Break*

15:30–16:15 | Thor Inge Rørvik (Oslo): Gunnerus: From Jena to Copenhagen and beyond. Johan Ernst Gunnerus and wolffian natural law

16:15–17:00 | Andreas Hellerstedt (Mid Sweden/Sundsvall): Wolffian natural law at Uppsala, 1738–1751: The controversial case of Johan Ihre

17:00–17:30 | Combined Roundtable and Closing Remarks

19:00 | *Dinner*