



Man and Nature

German Idealism in the Age of the Anthropocene

Seminar: Friday, April 5, Meeting Room 2, Studenternes Hus, AU



According to the anthropocene thesis, the human being stands in the center of things. Subsequently, the *anthropos*, and with its presence in nature, has undeniably underscored its exceptional status in the natural sciences and humanities alike. As the autonomously shaping force of nature, mankind is the terminus a quo for understanding changes of the earth system. Through climate and environmental changes, the earth system itself reacts spontaneously to the manmade impacts on nature. Thus, the human being is embedded in nature in a twofold way. Not only is the human being a creature subjected to nature; it is also a creature essentially influencing nature. How are we to conceive of this intertwining? And how are we to think of man and nature, respectively, if we are not to lose sight of the conceptions of interdependency and freedom, characterising the current state of affairs? In the context of these questions, the seminar offers an explorative scrutiny of the yet to be fully explored potentials and pitfalls of classical German philosophy. This goal is pursued over six lectures and discussions, aiming at new ways of addressing the problem of man and nature in the anthropocene.

Program:

09.00 – 09.15: *Welcome and Introduction* (Anders Moe Rasmussen: Aarhus University)

09.15 – 10.15: *Anthropocene: A basic Concept in the Philosophy of Nature* (Lore Hühn: University of Freiburg)

10.15 – 11.15: *Art in Nature. Schelling as a Catalyst for temporalizing the Great Chain of Being* (Jacob Wamberg: Aarhus University)

11.15 – 11.30: Coffee Break

11.30 – 12.30: *How does a Part of Nature realize that it's Part of Nature? Three Schellingian Models* (Daniel Whistler: Royal Holloway)

12.30 – 13.30: Lunch

13.30 – 14.30: *The Anthropocene – Crisis of Modern Philosophy of Nature? Historical Reflections on a Current Debate* (Philipp Höfele: University of Freiburg)

14.30 – 15.30: *Why does The Age of Man imply Evil?* (Kristoffer Willert: Aarhus University)

15.30 – 15.45: Coffee Break

15.45 – 16.45: *Infinite Past, Infinite Present, Infinite Future – Geology, Physiology, Psychology. On the Three Epochs of the Earth in Steffens' Anthropology (1822)* (Jesper Lundsfryd Rasmussen: University of Southern Denmark)

