

**International Conference**

**“The great protector of wits. D’Holbach 1789-2019”**

Lichtenberg-Kolleg, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen,  
Historic Observatory, Geismar Landstraße 11  
9-11 May 2019  
Conveners: FRANZISKA MEIER and LAURA NICOLÌ

**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> May**

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| From 09.00       | Registration   |
| 9.15 – 9.30      | <b>FRANZISKA MEIER</b> (GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT, GÖTTINGEN), Welcome  |
| 09.30 – 10.00    | <b>LAURA NICOLÌ</b> (LICHTENBERG-KOLLEG), Introduction   |
| <b>Session 1</b> | Chair: Nicholas Cronk  |
| 10.00 – 11.30    | <b>BRUNELLO LOTTI</b> (UNIVERSITÀ DI UDINE), The concept of natural order in <i>The System of Nature</i><br><b>ENRICO GALVAGNI</b> (LICHTENBERG-KOLLEG), Luxury, Mystification, and Oppressive Power in d’Holbach’s Philosophical Writings<br>Discussion |
| 11.30 – 11.45    | Refreshment  |
| <b>Session 2</b> | Chair: LAURA NICOLÌ  |
| 11.45 – 13.15    | <b>MLADEN KOZUL</b> (UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA), Holbach stratège et philosophe<br><b>RUGGERO SCIUTO</b> (HERTFORD COLLEGE / VOLTAIRE FOUNDATION, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD), The Absent Guest: D’Holbach’s Strategic Usage of Voltaire’s Texts<br>Discussion     |
| 13.15 – 14.30    | Lunch  |

- Session 3** Chair: MARIA SUSANA SEGUIN
- 14.30 – 16.00 **ALAIN SANDRIER** (UNIVERSITE DE CAEN NORMANDIE), De quelques aspects de la contribution du baron d'Holbach à l'*Encyclopédie*
- MELANIE EPHREME** (UNIVERSITE PARIS DIDEROT), Le baron d'Holbach, traducteur discret de la chimie allemande
- Discussion
- 16.00 – 16.30 Refreshment
- 16.30 – 18.30 **Public Lecture:**  
**ALAN CHARLES KORS (UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA), Holbach's Skepticism**  
 Discussant: TONY LA VOPA (NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY / LICHTENBERG-KOLLEG)
- 19.30 Dinner

### Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> May

- Session 4** Chair: MLADEN KOZUL
- 09.30 – 11.00 **GIANNI PAGANINI** (UNIVERSITÀ DEL PIEMONTE ORIENTALE), D'Holbach and the "spirit of Judaism"
- JACOPO AGNESINA** (UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA "LA SAPIENZA"), The role of Prophecies. Baron d'Holbach as translator of Anthony Collins
- Discussion
- 11.00 – 12.00 Refreshment and visit to the Historic Observatory
- Session 5** Chair: FRANZISKA MEIER
- 12.00 – 13.30 **MARIA SUSANA SEGUIN** (UNIVERSITE MONTPELLIER III / IHRIM - ENS DE LYON / IUF), Le rôle d'Holbach dans la diffusion de la littérature philosophique clandestine
- PAOLO QUINTILI** (UNIVERSITA DI ROMA "TOR VERGATA"), D'Holbach et Diderot: une amitié plus que philosophique
- Discussion
- 13.30 – 15.00 Lunch
- Session 6** Chair : ALAIN SANDRIER
- 15.00 – 16.30 **GERHARDT STENGER** (UNIVERSITE DE NANTES), Voltaire contre la coterie holbachique
- EMILIO MAZZA** (IULM, MILANO), How many "atheists" at d'Holbach's table?
- Discussion
- 16.30 – 17.00 Refreshment
- 17.00 – 17.40 **"Towards a born-digital critical edition of d'Holbach's complete works". Round table organised by Nicholas Cronk and Ruggero Sciuto**
- 19.00 Dinner

## **Saturday, 11th May**

### **Session 7**

Chair: GIANNI PAGANINI

09.00 – 9.45

**JONATHAN ISRAEL** (INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES, PRINCETON), D'Holbach's Political Thought. A subdued monarchism not unlike Voltaire's, or a decisive step inlaying the crypto-republican underlay of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century revolutionary consciousness?

Discussion

9.45 – 10.00

Refreshment

### **Session 8**

Chair: TONY LA VOPA

10.00 – 11.30

**NICHOLAS CRONK** (VOLTAIRE FOUNDATION, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD), Who are d'Holbach's readers?

**IRYNA MYKHAILOVA** (LICHTENBERG-KOLLEG), D'Holbach's Legacy in the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union: Translations and Receptions

Discussion

11.30 – 12.30

**Final round-table discussion chaired by ALAN CHARLES KORS**

12.30

Departure