



Academia Europaea - Klaus Tschira Foundation gGmbH

“Natural Law”

**A workshop to be held
Monday 4 June– Tuesday 5 June 2012
at the Studio of Villa Bosch, Heidelberg, Germany.**

Draft Programme

Organized by:

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Monday 4 June

15.30 Bus leaves *Crowne Plaza Hotel for Villa Bosch Studio

16.15 – 16.30 Opening Remarks: Jürgen Mittelstrass

Session 1 - Introduction

Chair:

Speaker(s):

16.30 – 17.00

17.00 – 17.30 Discussion

17:45 – 19.00 *Buffet reception*

Session 2 – Concept of Law in Physics

Chair:

Speakers:

19.00 – 19.30

19.30 – 19.45 Discussion

19.45 – 20.15

20.15 – 20.30 Discussion

20.30 – 21.00 General discussion

21.00 Bus returns to the *Crowne Plaza Hotel

Tuesday 4 June

09.00 Bus leaves *Crowne Plaza Hotel for Villa Bosch Studio

Session 3 – Concept of Law in Chemistry

Speakers:

09.15 – 09:45

09:45 – 10.00 Discussion

10.00 – 10.30

10:30 – 10:45 Discussion

10:45 – 11:15 *Coffee Break*

Session 4 – Concept of Law in Biology

Chair:

Speakers:

11.15 – 11:45

11:45 – 12.00 Discussion
12.00 – 12:30
12:30 – 13:00 General Discussion
13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch*

Session 5 – Concept of Law in Economics

Chair:

Speakers:

14.00 – 14.45
14.45 – 15.15 Discussion

15:15 – 15:45
15:45 – 16:00 Discussion

16:00 – 16:30 *Coffee break*

Session 6 Final discussion

Chair:

Speakers Panel discussion:

16.30 – 17:30

17:45 Bus returns to the Crowne Plaza Hotel

20.00 Dinner at Weisser Bock
(24, Grosse Mantelgasse, Heidelberg)

*Please note:

the bus departs from and returns to
the rear door of the Crowne Plaza Hotel and NOT the main front door.

Speakers will be drawn from

Introduction: The Concept of Law in Natural, Technical, and Social
Systems (K. Mainzer, TUM Munich, AE)

- The Concept of Law in Physics (C. Kiefer, U. Cologne)
- The Concept of Law in Physics (M. Dorato, U. Rome, AE)
- The concept of Law in Chemistry (M. Quack, ETH Zurich)
- The Concept of Law in Chemistry (J. Schummer, TU Karlsruhe)
- The Concept of Law in Biology (F.C. Boogerd, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
- The Concept of Law in Biology (A. Fagot-Largeault, U. Paris, AE)
- The Concept of Law in Economics (A. Falk, U. Bonn, AE)
- The Concept of Law in Economics (R. Bardley, London School of Economics) - The
Concept of Law in Jurisprudence (M. Stolleis, U. Frankfurt a.M.)

and the programme sessions outlined above will be adjusted accordingly

Rationale

The Concept of Law in Science

In the past, the Academy of Europe (Academia Europaea) has organized a series of interdisciplinary conferences on basic concepts in science. These concepts are more or less fundamental in several sciences with high importance in classical and contemporary philosophy. In the past, we considered the concepts of symmetry, complexity, and causality. Many recommended experts from several disciplines took part. The conference papers were published in "Physical Review", the official journal of Academia Europaea.

In June 4-5, another conference of this series will be organized at the Klaus Tschira Foundation in Heidelberg. The conference topic is dedicated to the concept of law in science. In classical tradition, natural laws were considered as eternal truths of the world. Galileo and Newton even proclaimed them as "thoughts of God" represented by mathematical equations. In Kantian tradition, they became categories of human mind. David Hume criticized their ontological status and demanded their reduction to habituations of sentiments and statistical correlations of observations. In main stream 20th century science, laws were often understood as convenient instruments only or even deconstructed in Feyerabend's "anything goes". But, the Newtonian paradigm of mathematical laws and models seem also to be extended to the life sciences (e.g., systems biology). Parallel to the development in natural sciences, a change of public meaning of laws in society can be observed over the last centuries. In economics, experimental, statistical, and behavioral approaches are favored. In any case, the ontological basis of laws, sometimes blamed as "Platonism", seems to be lost. In the beginning of the 21st century, the question arises: Are laws still important concepts of science? What is their contemporary meaning and task in different disciplines? Are there already alternative concepts or do laws remain an essential concept of science?