



Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen
Institute for Human Sciences

Press release – 18 October 2023

The Agency of the Powerless: The Transformative Power of the Non-politics of Small Things

The IWM is pleased to invite you to this year's Jan Patočka Memorial Lecture, honoring the intellectual legacy of the Czech philosopher, whose thinking has occupied a central role within the Institute's work since its founding days. The lecture will be delivered by Dariusz Stola, professor at the Institute for Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw and IWM Vice President.

Stola will speak on "**The Agency of the Powerless: The Transformative Power of the Non-politics of Small Things**". Beginning with Vaclav Havel's essay on the power of the powerless, the lecture is to extend the application of his insights about the daily reproduction of the communist regime, and the related potential for its erosion, into the vast field of intentionally apolitical and inconspicuous social practices.

Dariusz Stola is a historian and professor at the Institute for Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, as well as IWM Vice President. His research focuses on the history of the communist regime in Poland, Polish-Jewish relations, and international migration in the 20th century. He has authored and co-edited several books on Polish history and is a regular contributor to scientific journals. Between 2014 and 2019, Stola was the director of the Polin Museum of Polish Jewish History, where he contributed decisively to its success as the European Museum of the Year in 2016.

About the IWM Jan Patočka Memorial Lecture Series

The Czech thinker Jan Patočka (1907-1977) is considered one of the most important modern philosophers in Central Europe and was a co-founder and spokesman of the civil rights movement Charter 77. His works have been researched and published at the Institute for Human Sciences since the 1980s. The series of lectures, inaugurated by Hans-Georg Gadamer in 1987, is taking place for the 34th time this year. Previous speakers include Nancy Fraser, Lord Dahrendorf, Edward W. Said, Albert O. Hirschman, Francois Furet, Jaques Derrida, Leszek Kolakowski and, most recently, Lord Skidelsky, Chantal Mouffe, and Aleida Assmann.

Following the lecture, we cordially invite you to an informal reception with wine and snacks in the IWM Cafeteria. Please register for the event using the link provided below. We look forward to welcoming you to the IWM Library on this special occasion.

Save the date:

The Agency of the Powerless: The Transformative Power of the Non-politics of Small Things Jan Patočka Memorial Lecture by Dariusz Stola

Date: Wednesday, 25 October 2023, 18:00

Location: IWM Library, Spittelauer Lände 3, 1090 Wien

[For more information and to register, please click here.](#)

Contact information:

Institute for Human Sciences

Jakob Angeli

Content & PR Manager

+43-1-313-58-207

iwm-pr@iwm.at