



Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen  
Institute for Human Sciences

## **Pro Patria Mori** Solidarity and Sacrifice in the First World War

*Workshop, 14 – 15 April 2016*  
Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna

in cooperation with:  
ERC Project GRAPH – The Great War and Modern Philosophy, KU Leuven

One hundred years ago, in the midst of a war apparently without end, the British political philosopher Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson lamented the condition of European Anarchy and the failure of solidarity across the Continent. This absence of European solidarity reflected an heightened solidarity among belligerent nation-states. With the outbreak of hostilities in 1914, European Nations mobilized against each other in an upsurge of national consolidation and collective identity centered on the value of sacrifice. In different national and cultural contexts, dying for one's country anchored the formation of political and social solidarity.

The First World War provoked an intense reflection on the meaning of solidarity and sacrifice in philosophical, political, religious, and anthropological registers of thought. This fascination with the function of sacrifice and its meaning for social cohesion and political solidarity extended well beyond the war into the 1920s and 1930s, whether in the writings of Georges Bataille, Michel Leiris, and Roger Caillois, in D'Annunzio's *Notturmo*, or with the cult of the *Frontsoldaten*.

This workshop investigates the relationship between solidarity and sacrifice in historical and conceptual horizons of analysis. Is solidarity possible without a discourse of sacrifice? What is the meaning of "dying for one's nation?" What is the meaning of sacrifice? Is there any beauty and sweetness in dying for one's country? Who would want to die for Europe *today*?

## **Program**

### ***Thursday, 14 April***

**14:00 *Opening:*** Ludger Hagedorn, Christian Sternad

**14:15-16:00 *Session 1***

Moderator: *Michael Staudigl*

**Mélanie Weill** – *Sacrifice in French pre-War Anthropology*

**Edouard Jolly** – *The song of Craonne. Fraternity as Refusal of Sacrifice*

**16:15-17:15 *Session 2***

Moderator: *Jason W. Alvis*

**Francesco Tava** – *The Sacred as a Political Problem*

**18:00 *Keynote Lecture***

**Gáspár Miklós Tamás** – *Solidarity & Capitalism : Is Solidarity Just a Dream in a Reified Society ?*

Moderator: *Ludger Hagedorn*

*followed by Wine & Cheese*

### ***Friday, 15 April***

**09:15 – 10:30 *Session 3***

*Round Table: Discussion with Gáspár Miklós Tamás*

**10:45 – 12:15 *Session 4***

Moderator: *Michael Staudigl*

**Jason W. Alvis** – *Patočka and Wasteful Atonement*

**Martin Kočí** – *Patočka's kenotic sacrifice in the context of contemporary theological turn*

**12:30 – 13:15 *Session 5***

Moderator: *Jan Frei*

**Daniel Leufer** – *Sacrifice for Sacrifice's Sake: Is Patočka Guilty of Aestheticising Politics?*

*Lunch break*

**14:30 – 16:15 Session 6**

Moderator: *Sebastian Lederle*

**Lode Lauwaert** – *Sacrifice and beyond*

**Magdalena M. Baran** – *National Mythologies: War as a Duty to Die for one's Homeland*

**16:30 – 18:15 Session 7**

Moderator: *Klaus Nellen*

**Ludger Hagedorn** – *Go all out: War, Sacrifice, Holiness*

**Christian Sternad** – *Dying for... On the Problem of Relative and Absolute Sacrifice in Scheler and Patocka*

*Farewell Dinner*