Invitation

Wilhelm Röpke Congress

A liberal political economist in times of cultural and economic crises in Europe

International colloquium and public conference

14–16 April 2016
Maison de la Paix, Geneva
Wilhelm Röpke Congress

Wilhelm Röpke (1899-1966) is widely known as an economist of the founding generation of ordoliberalism who had a seminal impact on German liberal economic policy after World War II. However, he never returned to Germany after having left in 1933 and started an international career, first in Istanbul, then from 1937 onwards in Geneva, where he became Professor for International Relationships at the Graduate Institute and stayed until his death in 1966.

Röpke was a relentless critic of excessive interventionism, political centralism, and welfare statism. To what extent did Röpke see an ethical crisis as the basis of possible financial crises? What is his understanding of a “humane market economy” and to what extent can it be a basis for stable International Relationships? Why is Free Trade not a sufficient condition for a stable international order? What are necessary complements to establish a stable international order? This unique event, which marks the 50th anniversary of Röpke’s passing, will address these and other questions.

After a two-day scientific colloquium, a keynote lecture by the economist, author and former Röpke student Hernando de Soto will open a third conference day. We look forward to your participation!

Thursday, 14 April 2016 – Colloquium

From 13:30 Arrival of participants, welcome coffee
14:00 Introductory remarks
Philippe Burrin, Patricia Commun, Pierre Bessard, Nils Goldschmidt, Stefan Kolev
14:30 Richard Ebeling, The Citadel (USA) – The Relevance of Wilhelm Röpke in the Post-Totalitarian World
15:00 Marcelo Resico and Stefano Solari, Università di Padova (Italy) – The Moral Foundations of Society and Technological Progress in the Work of Wilhelm Röpke
15:30 Jean Solchany, Université de Lyon (France) – Wilhelm Röpke: Why He Was a Conservative
16:00 Coffee break
16:30 Frans Willem Lantink, Universiteit Utrecht (Netherlands) – Cultural Pessimism and Liberalist Regeneration? Wilhelm Röpke as Ideological In-Between in German Social Philosophy
17:00 Alan S. Kahan, Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (France) – Neoliberalism, Neoconservatism, Neodemocracy?
17:30 Tim Petersen, Wilhelm Röpke-Institut, Erfurt (Germany) – Liberal Economics and Conservative Journalism – Wilhelm Röpke and William S. Schlamm
18:00 End of first day

Friday, 15 April 2016 – Colloquium (cont.)

From 9:00 Arrival of participants
9:30 Patricia Commun, Université de Cergy-Pontoise (France) and Raphaël Fèvre (Université de Lausanne) – Was Röpke Really a Protokeynesian? Wilhelm Röpke’s Ultimate Attempt to Combine Economic and Sociological Analysis: Crises and Cycles (1936)
10:00 Lachezar Grudev, economist (Germany) – Wilhelm Röpke – an Innovative Austrian? Röpke and Austrian Business Cycle Theory
10:30 Stefan Kolev, Westsächsische Hochschule Zwickau (Germany) – The “Ordo-Interventionists” and Ludwig von Mises – Really No Common Ground?
11:00 Coffee break
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Arrival of participants</td>
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<td>9:15</td>
<td>Introductory remarks</td>
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<td>9:30</td>
<td>Richard Ebeling, The Citadel (USA) – Introductory Lecture: The Dangers from a Loss of a Moral Compass</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>Patricia Commun, Université de Cergy Pontoise – Les fondations culturelles d’une société de marché</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
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<td>11:00</td>
<td>Christoph Frei, Universität St. Gallen and Liberal Institute – Freihandel als Grundlage der internationalen Ordnung</td>
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<td>11:30</td>
<td>Alan Kahan, Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines – Les valeurs bourgeoises et les intellectuels</td>
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<td>12:00</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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<td>13:00</td>
<td>Bernhard Ruetz, historian and publisher, Zurich – Röpke in der Schweiz: Werte und Marktordnung</td>
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<td>13:30</td>
<td>Pierre Bessard, Liberal Institute, Geneva and Zurich – Le rôle décisif de Röpke en Suisse</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>Erich Weede, Universität Bonn – Die Krise des zeitgenössischen Wohlfahrtsstaats</td>
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<td>14:30</td>
<td>Alain Laurent, éditions «Les Belles Lettres» – Concluding Lecture: Röpke, Mises et Hayek: une appréciation</td>
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<td>15:00</td>
<td>Concluding remarks</td>
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Friday, 15 April 2016 – Public lecture

18:30  Welcoming remarks and introduction
Philippe Burrin, Graduate Institute, and Pierre Bessard, Liberal Institute
Lecture by Hernando de Soto
President of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy, Lima (Peru)
Property Rights and Markets: the Best Promise for the Poor

Saturday, 16 April 2016 – Public conference
(mostly in French and German)
Registration

Registration to the Wilhelm Röpke Congress is possible for the entire program over three days, or for either the colloquium or the public conference. Attendance fees apply (free of charge for students and academics).

Registration deadline: Wednesday, 6 April 2016

Location

The Wilhelm Röpke Congress will take place at the Graduate Institute, Maison de la Paix, chemin Eugène-Rigot 2, Geneva

Public transportation

From Geneva Cornavin station (5 minutes), tram no 15 direction “Nations”, stop “Maison de la Paix” or “Sismondi, then 2 minutes on foot

Parking

Parking de la Place des Nations, entry rue de Varembé, Geneva