



**Wilhelm Röpke:
A liberal political economist and social philosopher
in times of multiple European crises**

International colloquium and public conference
Geneva, 14-16 April 2016

GRADUATE INSTITUTE GENEVA · LIBERALES INSTITUT
AKTIONSGEMEINSCHAFT SOZIALE MARKTWIRTSCHAFT
WILHELM-RÖPKE-INSTITUT · AGORA – UNIVERSITÉ CERGY-PONTOISE

..... 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 emigrating in 1933, first to Istanbul and then in 1937 to Geneva, where he became professor for international economic relations at the Graduate Institute of International Studies and stayed at this institution until his death in February 1966.

Röpke was a relentless critic of excessive interventionism, political centralism and welfare statism. As an economic theorist, he developed fundamental insights into the mechanisms of the business cycle, later linking these economic phenomena to ethics and societal dynamics. What is his specific understanding of a “humane market economy” and to what extent can it be a basis for stable international relations? Why is free trade not a sufficient condition for a stable international order? What are necessary complements to establish a stable international order? What is the role of economic and political ideas, especially of liberalism and conservatism, in the dynamics of societal orders?

This unique event, which is dedicated to the 50th anniversary of Röpke’s passing, will address these and other related questions. It starts with a two-day scientific colloquium, continues with a keynote lecture by the economist, author and former Röpke student Mr. Hernando de Soto and concludes with a public conference. We look forward to your participation!

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..... Thursday, 14 April 2016 – Colloquium

from

13:30 Arrival of participants and welcome coffee

14:00 Introductory remarks

Philippe Burrin, Graduate Institute

Pierre Bessard, Liberales Institut

Patricia Commun, AGORA – Université Cergy-Pontoise

Nils Goldschmidt, Aktionsgemeinschaft Soziale Marktwirtschaft
and Universität Siegen

Stefan Kolev, Wilhelm-Röpke-Institut

14:30 **Richard Ebeling**, The Citadel Military College of South Carolina (USA)
The Relevance of Wilhelm Röpke in the Post-Totalitarian World

15:00 **Marcelo Resico**, Pontificia Universidad Católica, Buenos Aires (Argentina)
Stefano Solari, Università di Padova (Italy)
*The Moral Foundations of Society and Technological Progress of the
Economy 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 an Ideological In-Between in German Social Philosophy

17:00 **Alan S. Kahan**, Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (France)
From Basel to Brooklyn:
Liberal Cultural Pessimism in Burckhardt, Röpke, and the Neoconservatives

17:30 **Tim Petersen**, Wilhelm-Röpke-Institut, Erfurt (Germany)
Röpke's Specific Conservatism

18:00 End of first day

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..... Friday, 15 April 2016 – Colloquium (cont.)

from

9:00 **Arrival of participants**

9:30 **Patricia Commun**, AGORA – Université Cergy-Pontoise (France)
Raphaël Fèvre, Université de Lausanne (Switzerland)
Was Röpke Really a Protokeynesian? Wilhelm Röpke's Ultimate Attempt to Combine Economic and Sociological Analysis: Crises and Cycles (1936)

10:00 **Lachezar Grudev**, Universität Freiburg (Germany)
Wilhelm Röpke – an Innovative Austrian?
Röpke and Austrian Business Cycle Theory

10:30 **Stefan Kolev**, Wilhelm-Röpke-Institut, Erfurt (Germany)
The “Ordo-Interventionists” and Ludwig von Mises: More Than Just Aggression and Contempt?

11:00 **Coffee break**

11:30 **Henrique Schneider**, Schweizerischer Gewerbeverband (Switzerland)
Röpke: Skepticism About Markets and Optimism About Culture

12:00 **Matias Petersen**, King's College London (UK)
Hayek and Röpke on Markets and Morality

12:30 **Gabriele Ciampini**, Université de Paris-Sorbonne (France)
Was Röpke a Neoliberal? An Ordoliberal in the Mont Pèlerin Society and His Relationship with James M. Buchanan

13:00 **Lunch break**

14:30 **Ozge Kama**, Yıldız Teknik Üniversitesi Istanbul (Turkey)
Antonio Masala, IMT Advanced Studies Lucca (Italy)
Between Two Continents: Röpke's Years in Istanbul

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..... Friday, 15 April 2016 – Colloquium (cont.)

15:00 **Alberto Giordano**, Università degli Studi di Genova (Italy)
*A (Neo)Liberal Friendship in a Time of Crisis:
Röpke, Luigi Einaudi and the Future of European Civilization*

15:30 **Coffee break**

16:00 **Andrea Franc**, Universität Basel (Switzerland)
Wilhelm Röpke's Impact on Swiss Domestic Politics

16:30 **Christoph Frei**, Universität St. Gallen (Switzerland)
International Politics at Röpke's Times

17:00 **Erich Weede**, Universität Bonn (Germany)
What Has Social Science to Say about Globalization?

17:30 **End of the colloquium**

..... **Public lecture**

18:30 **Welcoming remarks and introduction**

Philippe Burrin, Graduate Institute

Pierre Bessard, Liberales Institut

Keynote lecture by

Mr. Hernando de Soto

President of the Institute for Liberty
and Democracy, Lima (Peru)

Wilhelm Röpke's Heritage for Today



20:00 **Cocktail reception**

..... Saturday, 16 April 2016 – Public conference

from

9:00 **Arrival of participants**

9:15 **Introductory remarks**

Pierre Bessard, Liberales Institut

9:30 **Introductory lecture**

Richard Ebeling, The Citadel Military College of South Carolina
The Dangers from a Loss of a Moral Compass

10:00 **Patricia Commun**, AGORA – Université Cergy-Pontoise

Les fondations culturelles d'une société de marché

10:30 **Coffee break**

11:00 **Christoph Frei**, Universität St. Gallen and Liberales Institut

Freihandel als Grundlage der internationalen Ordnung

11:30 **Alan Kahan**, Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines

Les valeurs bourgeoises et les intellectuels

12:00 **Lunch break**

13:00 **Bernhard Ruetz**, Historian and Publisher, Zurich

Röpke in der Schweiz: Werte und Marktordnung

13:30 **Pierre Bessard**, Liberales Institut

Le rôle décisif de Röpke en Suisse

14:00 **Erich Weede**, Universität Bonn

Die Krise des zeitgenössischen Wohlfahrtsstaats

14:30 **Concluding lecture**

Alain Laurent, Éditions «Les Belles Lettres»
Röpke, Mises et Hayek: une appréciation

15:00 **Concluding remarks**

15:15 **End of the congress**

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Information

Registration

For registration, fees and further information please contact Professor Patricia Commun (patricia.commun@u-cergy.fr) and Professor Stefan Kolev (info@roepke-institut.org).

Registration deadline is Wednesday, 6 April 2016.

Attendance is free of charge for students, academics, and alumni of the Graduate Institute.

Location

Graduate Institute · Maison de la Paix · chemin Eugène-Rigot 2 · Geneva



By train and tram

Tram 15 will take you from the main Geneva railway station “Gare Cornavin” to the stop “Maison de la paix” in about five minutes. The Maison de la paix is about two minutes’ walk from the tram stop, just across the railway bridge. Trams run every five minutes during the day.

Car parking

Coop de Montbrillant · rue de Montbrillant 90 or Parking de la Place des Nations · rue de Varembe

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