

# Workshop I: Adverse Allies: Logical Empiricism and Austrian Economics

The FWF ESPRIT research project “Adverse Allies: Logical Empiricism and Austrian Economics”, the Institute of Philosophy and Scientific Method (JKU Linz), the Institute Vienna Circle (University of Vienna), and the Vienna Circle Society host two workshops in 2025.

**Workshop I at the University of Vienna: 12.02.-14.02.2025**

Workshop II at JKU Linz: 23.09.-25.09.2025

Watch out for call for papers for workshop II in April/May 2025.

**Registration / Online Participation: The event is free and open to the public, with advance registration via [vcs@univie.ac.at](mailto:vcs@univie.ac.at) by 05.02.2025 requested.** Please indicate whether you want to attend in person or online, in which case the link for online participation will be provided. All presentations will be in person. Participation in discussions will be limited for online participants.

Logical empiricism and Austrian economics are arguably the two internationally most influential intellectual movements with Viennese roots. The Vienna Circle and the Austrian School have shaped the development of philosophical, scientific, and political debate in the 20th century. In the 21st century, logical empiricism has undergone extensive re-evaluation, while the Austrian School experiences another revival.

Yet, despite numerous connections and interactions between the two movements, their relationship has captured surprisingly sparse attention in the historical and philosophical literature. If an account is provided at all, logical empiricists and Austrian economists are portrayed as philosophically, scientifically, and politically antithetical groups. Among the most frequently mentioned contrastive pairs of catchwords are empiricism vs apriorism, formal methods vs verbal reasoning, and socialism vs classical liberalism.

Acknowledging the existence of disagreements between logical empiricism and the Austrian School, recent scholarship has challenged the received view of antithetical opposition by reconstructing hitherto neglected compatibilities and similarities between the two movements.

This workshop aims to advance historical as well as systematic discussions on the relationship between logical empiricism and Austrian economics. Contributions that fruitfully

inform contemporary debates in philosophy, methodology, politics, or the sciences are particularly welcome.

**Scientific Committee:** Alexander Linsbichler, Julian Reiss, Georg Schiemer, Friedrich Stadler

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Subject to Changes.

Book of Abstracts available online.



FWF ESPRIT Research Project

“Adverse Allies:

Logical Empiricism and Austrian Economics”



Institute Vienna Circle



**Vienna Circle Society**

Society for the Advancement  
of the Scientific World Conception

Both workshops are supported by the Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology (DLMPST) of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology.



# Program Overview

Neues Institutsgebäude, 3rd Floor, Hörsaal 3D, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
10:00 Opening Remarks	09:00 Unobservables	09:00 Formal Methods and Models I
10:15 Meta-Methodology		10:30 <i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00 <i>Coffee Break</i>	11:00 Value-Neutrality	11:00 Formal Methods and Models II
11:30 Rationalities and Calculation		12:30 <i>Lunch Break</i>
13:00 <i>Lunch Break</i>	14:00 Fellow-Travelers	14:00 Convention and Induction
14:30 Institutions for Science and Society		15:30 <i>Coffee Break</i>
16:00 <i>Coffee Break</i>	16:00 Plenum Discussion Adverse Allies: Logical Empiricism and Austrian Economics	16:00 Praxeology
16:30 The Sciences and Pseudoscience		17:30 Closing Remarks
18:00 <i>End of Day 1</i>	17:45 <i>End of Day 2</i>	17:45 <i>End of Day 3</i>
	19:00 Workshop Dinner	

# Day 1 - Wednesday, 12.02.2025

Neues Institutsgebäude, 3rd Floor, Hörsaal 3D, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien

## 10:00 – 10:15 Opening Remarks

Alexander Linsbichler

## 10:15 – 11:00 Meta-Methodology

Chair: Julian Reiss

Sophie Veigl

Comparing Epistemic Systems – A De-Idealized Approach

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

## 11:30 – 13:00 Rationalities and Calculation

Chair: Friedrich Stadler

Elisabeth Nemeth

Ludwig von Mises versus Otto Neurath

Erwin Dekker & Andre Quintas

The Evolving Concept of Rationality in the Work of Ludwig von Mises

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break

## 14:30 – 16:00 Institutions for Science and Society

Chair: Erwin Dekker

Lukas Starchl & Richard Sturn

Epistemology and Democracy: The Developments of Mises and Eucken

Silke Körber

“Scientific Attitudes” and their Value for Society: Neurath, Mises, Stebbing

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

## 16:30 – 18:00 The Sciences and Pseudoscience

Chair: Elisabeth Nemeth

Pierre Fasula

The Fragmentation of Knowledge

Adam Tamas Tuboly

Between Science and Fringe: Logical Positivism and Scientific Philosophy on Pseudoscience

## Day 2 - Thursday, 13.02.2025

Neues Institutsgebäude, 3rd Floor, Hörsaal 3D, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien

### 09:00 – 10:30 Unobservables

Chair: Adam Tamas Tuboly

Sajjad Shahrabi

Rationality, Market and “Observables”: Lessons from Hayek and van Fraassen

Adam Lovasz

Hayek’s Philosophy of Mind: An Irreductivist Account

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

### 11:00 – 12:30 Value-Neutrality

Chair: Igor Wysocki

Jakob Ortman

Intersections of Spontaneous Order and Performativity

Milosz Slepowronski

Does Game Theory Reconstruct or Undermine Moral Norms?

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break

### 14:00 – 15:30 Fellow-Travelers

Chair: Karl Milford

Zoltan Peto

Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn and Capitalism

Reinhard Neck

Karl Popper – Interlocutor or Killer of the Vienna Circle and the Austrian School of Economics

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

### 16:00 – 17:45 Plenum Discussion

Chair: Georg Schiemer

Adverse Allies: Logical Empiricism and Austrian Economics

Introduction: Alexander Linsbichler

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**19:00 - ... Workshop Dinner**

Hotel Regina, Rooseveltplatz 15, 1090 Wien

## Day 3 - Friday, 14.02.2025

Neues Institutsgebäude, 3rd Floor, Hörsaal 3D, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien

### 09:00 – 10:30 Formal Methods and Models I

Chair: Richard Sturm

Daniel Eckert

Formalizing the Social Sciences Vienna Style: Models of Society as Social Models

Edoardo Peruzzi & Catherine Herfeld

Grounding Formal Models in the Logic of Choice? Pushing Disciplinary Boundaries in the Early Years of Game Theory

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

### 11:00 – 12:30 Formal Methods and Models II

Chair: Daniel Eckert

Krzysztof Turowski

Hayek and his Models: A Lesson from the 1930s Capital Controversies

Johannes Amoser

Natural Classification in Microeconomics

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break

### 14:00 – 15:30 Convention and Induction

Chair: Reinhard Neck

Karen Spisso

Reading the Theory of Maximizing Behavior as a Conventionalist Theory

Karl-Friedrich Israel

Verification, Falsification and the Constancy Principle

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

### 16:00 – 17:30 Praxeology

Chair: Karl-Friedrich Israel

Brian J. Gladish

Toward a Conceptual Framework for Biology and Economics: Biophilosophy and Praxeology

Igor Wysocki

Rethinking the Scarcity Theorem in Austrian Economics

### 17:30 – 17:45 Closing Remarks

Alexander Linsbichler