

The Leibniz Lectures refer to the fact that Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz presented the first plans for a “Society of Sciences in Vienna” to the Emperor during his time in Vienna between 1712 and 1714. Lectures are given by scholars who have gained international recognition not only in their own field, but whose research also demonstrates the differentiation potential of philosophy for interdisciplinary understanding and for dealing with publicly relevant issues of the present.

Leibniz Lecture

Internal and External Questions in Philosophical Dialogues across Different Cultures

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We would like to point out that photographs and video recordings may be taken during this event.

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Start: 6 PM

Austrian Academy of Sciences
Seminarraum 1
Bäckerstraße 13
1010 Vienna

Heisook Kim, Professor Emerita, Department of Philosophy, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea, has received her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago with the thesis *Transcendental Arguments. Objectivity and the Nature of Philosophical Inquiry*, 1987. She served, inter alia, as president of Ewha Womans University, 2017-2021, as board member of IAPh (International Association of Women Philosophers), 2014-2018, as president of the Korean Association of Intercultural Philosophy, 2009-2013, and as president of the Korean Association of Analytic Philosophy, 2007-2009. Elected as president of FISP (Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de Philosophie) in the year 2024, she is currently chairing the preparations for the 26th World Congress of Philosophy (Tokyo, August 2028). Her areas of specialization are: Epistemology, Philosophical Methodology, Philosophy of Art, Feminist Philosophy, Comparative Philosophy.

Selected books: *An Asian Feminist Viewpoint. A New Beginning of Thoughts* (2025), *A Great Turn in Philosophy: Kant's Copernican Revolution* (2024), *A Contemporary Interpretation of YinYang* (2014), *Kant: Philosophy of the Bound and the Bound of Philosophy* (2011).



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Program

Welcome

Verena Winiwarter, on behalf of the presidency of the Austrian Academy of Sciences
Christine Maaß, Österreichische UNESCO-Kommission

Introduction and Q&A moderation

Herta Nagl-Docekal, Austrian Academy of Sciences & University of Vienna

Lecture

Heisook Kim, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea
[Internal and External Questions in Philosophical Dialogues across Different Cultures](#)

The talk examines the lack of philosophical dialogue between the East and the West by using Carnap's distinction between 'internal' and 'external' questions. Maintaining that the role of philosophy is to engage in the rational reconstruction of the world, Carnap believed that the choice of a reduction basis itself is a matter of 'attitude' or practical choice and does not possess any special epistemological privilege. Western philosophers have often claimed that philosophy has a distinctively Greek origin and that it therefore has its own distinctive agenda of philosophical problems and methods, while relegating Eastern thought to the status of mere 'thought' or 'idea' rather than philosophy. If we approach this issue using Carnap's distinction, however, we can say that the rational reconstruction undertaken in the East and the West has been carried out on different reduction bases. From this perspective, the choice of which reduction basis to adopt, and which fundamental questions to take as primary, can only be made from a pragmatic point of view. Does this mean, then, that Eastern and Western philosophies are mutually unintelligible systems? One way of addressing this problem is to transform the questions concerning these two systems from 'external' into 'internal' questions.

Reception