

Veranstaltung

Book Workshop with **Gregory S. Moss** (Hongkong):

Schelling, Cassirer, and the Mythical Absolute

Comments by Sebastian Stein (Heidelberg)

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Textgrundlage (Buchmanuskript) und Anmeldung:

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Abstract:

Schelling, Cassirer, and the Mythical Absolute argues that philosophy is a discipline that is fundamentally oriented towards absolute knowing. This vision of philosophy, deeply inspired by the tradition of German Idealism, leads philosophy into paradox, for absolute thinking ultimately leads philosophy into contradiction. Due to the inherently *aporetic* character of absolute thinking, some contemporary philosophers have cast sincere doubt on the existence of the absolute. In order to respond to these challenges, *Schelling, Cassirer, and the Mythical Absolute* calls for philosophy to re-think the absolute as a true contradiction. The book explores two plausible species of absolute dialetheism: rational and mystical dialetheism. The book argues against rational dialetheism, and its main proponent, G.W.F. Hegel. The book advances the claim of the mystical variety, and demonstrates that mystical dialetheism is *mythical* in form. *The Mythical Absolute* explores the form and structure of myth by investigating F.W.J. Schelling and Ernst Cassirer's tautegorical interpretations of the philosophy of mythology in the context of their distinct and systematic approaches to philosophy. *The Mythical Absolute* also engages with Fichte and Hegel, and re-configures their thinking within an inquiry into the mythical absolute. In the course of the investigation, the relation of myth to other forms of culture, such as religion, art, language, science, history, and philosophy is explored. *The Mythical Absolute* investigates the relationship between myth and various concepts, including the sacred and the profane, metaphor, freedom and determinism, self-consciousness, polytheism and monotheism. The philosophical discussions are always connected to themes and issues of relevance to traditional and more recent trends cultural anthropology. In its concluding chapters, the book integrates the insights of Schelling and Cassirer on myth into a symbolic metaphysics of the Absolute, that calls upon philosophy to reimagine the world in mythical terms.