

Conference Programme

***Ex nihilo nihil fit* and the Principle of Sufficient Reason - On the Metaphysics of Ground in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period**

Organizers: Clara Carus & Stephan Schmid – Funding: Fritz Thyssen Stiftung)

Thursday, July 16 2026	
Morning Session, chaired by Yoav Meyrav (Universität Hamburg)	
9:00 – 9:30	Coffee and Registration
9:30 – 9:45	Clara Carus & Stephan Schmid: Welcome & Introduction
9:45 – 11.00	Kübra Bahçi (Ruhr-Universität Bochum): The Will as Sufficient Reason: <i>Creatio ex Nihilo</i> and PSR in Medieval Islamic Philosophy
Coffee Break	
11:15 – 12:30	Clara Carus (Heidelberg): Human Will in Its Necessary Determination and Indeterminateness According to Thomas Aquinas
Lunch Break	
Afternoon Session chaired by Francesco Binotto (Universität Hamburg)	
14.00 – 15:15	Sebastian Bender (LMU München): <i>Ex nihilo nihil fit</i>, PSR and Causal Containment in the 17th Century
Coffee Break	
15:45 – 17:00	Fatema Amijee (University of British Columbia; online): The PSR and the Reach of Human Cognition in Avicenna
Coffee Break	
17:30 – 18.45	Michael Della Rocca, Yale University: TBA
19:30	Conference Dinner for Speakers and Chairs

Friday, July 17 2026	
Morning Session, chaired by Jennifer Marušić (University of Edinburgh)	
9:00 – 10:15	Jeffrey McDonough (Harvard): Leibniz as Atomist
Coffee Break	
10:30 – 11:45	Gonzalo Rodriguez-Pereyra (Oxford): Leibniz, Hume, and the question ‘why is there something rather than nothing?’
Coffee Break	
12:00 – 13:15	Julia Borcharding (Cambridge): Far Beyond the Solid Skies: Du Châtelet’s Regulative PSR as a Response to the Scholastic <i>ex nihilo nihil fit</i> Principle
Lunch Break	
Afternoon Session, chaired by M. Folescu (University of Missouri)	
14:30 – 15:45	Sonja Schierbaum & Jon Bornholdt (Würzburg): No Room for Contingency? Pietist Critique of the Principle of Sufficient Reason in Leibniz and Wolff
Coffee Break	
16:00 – 17:15	Samuel Levey (Dartmouth): Leibniz’s Proof of the PSR Revisited
17:15 – 17:30	Final Remarks & Farewell

Venue: Jungiusstr. 11C in 20355 Hamburg, 3rd Floor, Room C 319.

Registration (in-presence or remote) is mandatory by July 14 2026, 23:59 CEST via this link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/T0rQ1dqqKg>