

Personalities, Pragmatic Affairs, and Playful Worlds

"On Multiple Realities" 1945–2025

CALL FOR PAPERS

VII. Conference of the *International Schutz Circle for Phenomenology and Interpretive Social Research*
University of Vienna, April 24-26, 2025



Photo by Georg Herder

In his essay “On Multiple Realities” (1945), Alfred Schutz developed a constitutional analysis of multiple realities alongside the paramount world of everyday life and the conduct of life associated with it. The essay has been widely adopted, and the issue of the transition from one sub-universe of the lifeworld into another (e.g. the startle after a nightmare) served as the starting point for Goffman’s famous frame analysis.

The International Alfred Schutz Circle for Phenomenology and Interpretive Sociology takes as an opportunity the 80th anniversary of Schutz’s essay and chooses “multiple realities” as the central topic for its 7th Conference. The conference aims at applying Schutz’s ideas with regard to contemporary realities and to critically scrutinize them empirically, theoretically and historically. Contributions could address e.g. one of the following broad thematic areas of Schutz’s thought about living in multiple realities: (1) The social dimension of personality and the challenge of unity and multiplicity of roles, (2) the relationship between everyday life and science or between theory and practice in Schutz’s work (e.g. in comparison to theories of postmodernism), (3) modifications of the “Wirkwelt” through modifications of the tension of consciousness (“attention a la vie”) in literature, dream, play, drug experience, and the playful transgressions of boundaries in the tradition of “kinaesthetic thinking” in the engineering sciences or so-called “design thinking”.

The official language of the conference will be English. Paper proposals are not necessarily confined to the main topic of the conference. There will be sessions in addition that are principally open to other topics within the Schutzian paradigm. Session proposals are also welcome.

Please submit an abstract of approximately 500 words. To be considered, all presentation proposals must include a cover sheet with name, paper title, affiliation, five key words, and full contact information including email.

The Ilse Schutz Memorial Prize of \$1000 will be awarded for the best paper presented by a graduate student or faculty member who has not yet reached the rank of Associate or Full Professor.

For more information, see our website www.schutzcircle.org.

Submission deadline:	August 31, 2024
Notification of acceptance:	September 30, 2024
Please send all submissions to:	schutzcircle@uni-konstanz.de
Local organizers:	Michaela Pfadenhauer, Theresa Vollmer, Miriam Aistleitner, Tilo Grenz, Christopher Schlembach
Organizers/Executive Committee:	Jochen Dreher (chair), Michael D. Barber, Andreas Göttlich, Carlos Belvedere, Masato Kimura, Daniela López