

Prof. Angelika Krebs
Prof. Roger Scruton

August, 7, 2012

Conference in Basel, September 3-5, 2012

A Sense of Place. Landschaft und Heimat im Umweltschutz

The conference will address those aspects of environmental thinking that engage with the human need for settlement. It will take place in Switzerland, a country that has thrived on a culture of home and dwelling that has transcended linguistic and religious divisions, and engendered a continuing concern for the environment that could perhaps serve as a useful model for Europe and the wider world. We wish to bring together philosophers, geographers and architects, as well as others actively engaged in artistic enterprises and in humane scholarship, to explore the many ways in which people have protected their shared natural assets through shaping them as a home. The communal sense of beauty is one of the major instruments of making such a shared home.

It is our view that current environmental thinking has been overly concerned with global problems and the (often futile) search for global solutions, and has paid insufficient attention to local ways of managing the earth and our relation to it. Hence environmental thinking has pursued comprehensive objectives that require radical changes in life-style, while paying scant attention to the motives that people might have for complying with them. We do not have a dogmatic position on any of the problems that the world now confronts. But we believe that there are important traditions of thought, feeling and humane awareness that are often overlooked in the crisis-fed concerns of environmentalists today, and we wish to put together a conference in which these traditions can be critically explored, with a view to learning what we can from them.

The conference is organised by Angelika Krebs, Professor of Philosophy at Basel University and author of *The Ethics of Nature*, and Roger Scruton, Professor of Philosophy at the University of St Andrews, and Visiting Professor of Philosophy at Oxford University, author of *Green Philosophy*. The languages of the conference will be German and English. The German speaking contributors will be asked either to introduce their talks with an English abstract or to present their whole talks in English. The conference will take place over three days, with the intention of generating a continuous discussion.

Provisional Programme

We expect the conference to start at the beginning of the week, with participants arriving on the Monday afternoon of September 3, and leaving either Wednesday evening or Thursday morning. It will take place in the great hall of the Schönes Haus at Nadelberg 6 in the old town centre of Basel.

The topics to be considered will include the aesthetics of nature, landscape and landscape art, settlement and wandering, the concept of dwelling, town and country planning, locality and mobility, democracy and the small community, and the art and literature of homecoming. Below we have listed those speakers who have already agreed to come to Basel. Yet we may ask further people to speak to us on Wednesday afternoon. The conference is funded by the *European Academy of Arts and Sciences*, by the *Swiss National Foundation* and by the *Freiwillige Akademische Gesellschaft Basel*.

Monday Evening: Turning for Home

6.15 p.m. Opening Address by Roger Scruton at the Wildtsches Haus: "Oikos and Attachment"

7 p.m. Discussion

7.30 p.m. Reception

Tuesday Morning: Environmental Ethics

9 a.m. Angelika Krebs: "'Und was da war, es nahm uns an.' Landschaft und Heimat"

9.40 – 10 a.m. Discussion

10.30 a.m. Michael Hampe: "Erklären und Beschreiben. Panpsychismus und Tiefenökologie"

11.10 – 11.30 a.m. Discussion

11.30 a.m. Andreas Dorschel: "Warum ist es am Rhein so schön? Eine philosophische Untersuchung"

12.10 – 12.30 p.m. Discussion

1 p.m. Lunch at the Terrace of the Hotel Krafft am Rhein

Tuesday Afternoon: Environmental Politics in England

2.30 p.m. Hank Dittmar: "Not in My Backyard - The Inevitable Consequence of Localism?"

3.10 - 3.30 p.m. Discussion

3.50 p.m. Robert Adam: "Time and Memory in Urban Design"

4.30 - 5 p.m. Discussion

5.30 p.m. Tony Curzon Price: "Democracy and the Tragedy of the Commons"

6.10 - 6.30 p.m. Discussion

Tuesday Evening: Film

7 p.m. Hansmartin Siegrist: "ZeitRaumAargau"

8 p.m. Dinner at the Hotel Au Violon

Wednesday Morning: Environmental Politics in Switzerland

9 a.m. Klaus Ewald: "Landschaftsveränderungen in der Schweiz"

9.40 - 10 a.m. Discussion

10.30 a.m. Beat Sitter-Liver: "Ethik, Natur und Politik. Vorderdettigen als ein Beispiel"

11.10 - 11.30 a.m. Discussion

11.30 a.m. - 12.10 p.m. Raimund Rodewald: "Kulturlandschaft zwischen Ästhetik, Biodiversität und Geschichte"

12.10 - 12.30 p.m. Discussion

1 p.m. Lunch in the Yard of the Restaurant Kunsthalle

Speakers

Robert Adam, Architect, London

Hank Dittmar, Chief Executive, The Prince's Foundation, London

Andreas Dorschel, Professor of Aesthetics, Graz

Klaus Ewald, Professor Emeritus of Nature and Landscape Protection, ETH Zurich

Michael Hampe, Professor of Philosophy, ETH Zurich

Angelika Krebs, Professor of Philosophy, Basel

Tony Curzon Price, Editor-in-Chief of openDemocracy, London

Raimund Rodewald, Director of the "Stiftung Landschaftsschutz Schweiz", Berne

Roger Scruton, Professor of Philosophy, St Andrews and Oxford

Hansmartin Siegrist, Film-Maker, Basel

Beat Sitter-Liver, Professor of Philosophy, Fribourg