

Conatus – Self-determination – Subjectivity – Hegel and/or/with Spinoza
Philosophisches Seminar, University of Heidelberg

Hörsaal 04a, Neue Universität, Heidelberg University
Universitätsplatz 1, 69117 Heidelberg
8–9.07.2026

Wednesday, 8th of July

10:00 Welcome, coffee

10:15 Ursula Renz (Graz): Spinozean *acquiescentia in se ipso* and Hegelian Reconciliation
Chair: Julia Peters

11:15 Coffee break

11:45 Yitzhak Melamed (Johns Hopkins): Spinoza and Hegel on Self-Negation
Chair: Oliver Toth

12:45 Lunch break

14:00 Ana-Silvia Munte (Tübingen): Spinoza's Conatus and Hegel's Stocking: Why a Mended Self-Consciousness is Worse than a Torn One
Chair: Jelscha Schmid

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 Bojana Jovičević (Ljubljana): Knowledge and Action in Spinoza's Ethics and Hegel's Logic
Chair: Clara Carus

16:30 Coffee break

17:00 Julia Peters (Heidelberg): Privatio nihil est? Hegel's Critique of Spinoza on Negative Affect
Chair: Clara Carus

19:30 Dinner
Goldener Anker (Untere Neckarstraße 52, 69117 Heidelberg-Altstadt)

Thursday, 9th of July

10:00 Oliver Toth (Heidelberg): Inalienable finite agency and Spinoza's causa sui in §66 of Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*
Chair: Sebastian Stein

11:00 coffee break

11:30 Jack Stetter (Louisiana State/South Florida): State Individuality and War in Spinoza and Hegel
Chair: Sebastian Stein

12:30 Lunch break

13:30 Martin Saar (Frankfurt): Hegel or Spinoza? Subjectivity, Intersubjectivity and “Transindividuality”

Chair: Julia Peters

14:30 Coffee break

15:00 Misa Sanada (Nagoya): From Conatus to Being-with-Oneself-in-Another: Mendelssohn, Jacobi, and the Path from Spinoza to Hegel

Chair: Oliver Toth

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 James Kreines (Claremont McKenna): Philosophy of Action and Priority of the Practical, Without Human-Perspective-Defensive Reasoning: Spinoza’s Conatus and Hegel’s Self-Determination

Chair: Jakob McNulty

17:30 Concluding remarks, reception

20:00 Screening of the movie “Spinoza: Six Reasons for the Excommunication of the Philosopher”

Gloriette Cinema, Hauptstraße 146, 69117 Heidelberg

Followed by a podium discussion “Spinoza and the Good Life” with the director of the film David Ofek, and Michael Engel (Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies), Yitzhak Melamed (Johns Hopkins), Ursula Renz (Graz) on the therapeutic role of Spinoza’s philosophy, moderated by Julia Peters (Heidelberg).

The conference is free and open to everyone. Due to limited seating, we ask for registration by sending an e-mail to: oliver.toth@uni-heidelberg.de.

Registration does not automatically include a ticket for the screening; tickets can be bought directly at the cinema independently from the registration.

The conference is organized by Julia Peters and Oliver Toth; it is generously funded by the DFG and is part of the project „Conatus, Trieb und die Erkenntnis der Freiheit: Spinozas Einfluss auf Hegels praktische Philosophie“.