Conference Announcement/CfP

Discursivity, Objectivity, and Truth in Contemporary Philosophy and Culture

May 20 – 21, 2027

Paderborn University, Germany

Organized by: Sebastian Luft (Paderborn), Rafael Garcia (Campinas), Caio Vituriano (Campinas)

Keynote Speakers (confirmed):

Esther Pedersen (University of Roskilde, Denmark)

Oswaldo Giacoia (University of Campinas, Brazil)

Sebastian Luft (Paderborn University, Germany)

Abstract & Rationale

A widespread topic of discussion in modern academic and public debates is the so-called "post-truth" condition. This is the state where classical ideas of the Enlightenment such as certainty, unprejudiced rationality and universal truth can no longer play any relevant normative role. Instead, a space opens up for non-idealized, concrete conditions of human existence that step in, arguably, to explain how different discourses can be taken to be true. As certainty becomes elusive, it seems that rationality can no longer be the gold standard for knowledge, but rather a mere distant, hard-fought ideal—if it is not given up as ideal altogether. People lose faith and trust in this very ideal, which results in a destabilization of truth and objectivity. What remains is a "dispute over truth," the clash of opposing—oftentimes contradictory—theses and points of view in all social spheres. Especially after the recent COVID pandemic, it has become clear that this dispute is not restricted to the modes of life on the part of different, particular social communities, but that at this point in history it also lies at the heart of political disputes regarding the large-scale conduct of nations. In this respect, contemporary philosophy has not shied away from attempting to understand the turn that the social perception of truth has taken towards a focus on the disputes of opposing points of view. This results in a growing and renewed importance of concepts such as "discursivity," "objectivity," and "truth." This conference aims to discuss,

assess, and critically investigate these concepts, their genealogy, and their contemporary relevance.

With this scope in mind, we issue a Call for Papers for a conference entitled "Discursivity, Objectivity and Truth in Contemporary Philosophy and Culture," to take place at Paderborn University on May 20-21, 2027. This conference aims at gathering ongoing research on how these topics and concepts play an increasingly dominant role in contemporary thought and how they continue previous discussions.

This conference is organized through a cooperation by the University of Campinas (Brazil) and Paderborn University (Germany) and funded through the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP; grant application pending) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG; grant application pending).

Call for Papers

Please submit paper abstracts (title, keywords, abstract, prepared for **blind review**, all on one page max.) by **December 31**, 2026, to Caio Vituriano (c232570@dac.unicamp.br).

Topics may include (must not be limited to, but should somehow show the connection to, including authors who have written on these topics):

- Hermeneutics, Philosophy of Life and Genealogy of Truth;
- Pluralism and Pragmatism;
- Trust and the Destabilization of Truth and Objectivity.

Conference participants will be asked to secure their own funding, though we will also apply for funding, especially for junior scholars.

Select papers (those passing through a review process) will be published in a special topics issue in the Brazilian journal Simbólica.