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**Massenstreik**  
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## Secularities. Freethinkers in the Context of National Movements and the Rise of Nation States in Europe, 1789–1920s

International Workshop  
Rome, 21 – 23 March 2018

The International Workshop aims for a broad transdisciplinary and transnational discourse to examine nuances of the secular present in the European societies of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The focus is on freethinkers taken as Europe's outstanding secular avant-gardes, including those of East-Central Europe. Contrasting different forms of secularity, we will analyze and discuss

the ways European freethinkers contributed to the concept of the modern nation and helped defining its specifics and values. Thereby, the workshop traces the rooting of the secular projects and sheds light on a set of heterogeneous religious, social and cultural backgrounds as well as the projects concrete designs such as the promotion of a material-scientific world view or initiatives to leave church.

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Figs. on the left: Wilhelm Ostwald; The Universal Church of the Future (Puck, Illustriertes Humoristisches Wochenblatt, February 1883).

On the right: Strike Call against State Church ("Vorwärts", 28 October 1913);

Inauguration of the Statue of Giordano Bruno, 1889, Campo de' Fiori, Rome; Jakob Moleschott.

### Conference venue

Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom  
Istituto Storico Germanico di Roma  
Via Aurelia Antica, 391  
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### Contact

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## Wednesday, 21 March, 14.00–19.00

14.00 Martin Baumeister | Roma  
Welcome

Carolin Kosuch | Roma  
Introduction "Secularism and Freethought from  
a European Perspective"

### I - Freethought in European National Movements

Chair: Viviana Mellone | Napoli

14.30 Anton Jansson | Göteborg  
Tracing the Genealogy of Modern Secular Sweden:  
Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Secularists on the Nation  
and the State

14.55 Yuval Jobani | Tel-Aviv  
Jewish Secularisms and the Building of the Hebrew  
Nation (1904–1922)

15.20 Barbara Wagner | Warszawa  
New Country. Poland for and against Freethinkers

15.45 Daniela Haarmann | Wien  
The Hungarian Republic of Letters –  
The Magyarization of Hungary in the early 1800's

16.15 Coffee Break

16.45 Todd Weir | Groningen  
Commentary, Discussion

18.00 *Keynote Lecture*

Detlef Pollack | Münster  
Secularization – A Contentious Concept  
in the Historical and Social Sciences

Reception

## Thursday, 22 March, 9.30–18.00

### II - Networks and Organizations of Freethought: National and Transnational

Chair: Árpád von Klimó | Washington

9.30 Daniel Laqua | Newcastle  
"The Most Advanced Nation on the Road to Liberty":  
Nationalism and the International Freethought  
Federation

9.55 Johannes Gleixner | München  
Diverging Secularities between the Nation and the  
Movement: The "International of Proletarian  
Free-Thinkers" in Central and Eastern Europe  
during the 1920s in a National and International  
Framework

10.20 Katharina Neef | Leipzig, Chemnitz  
The *Komitee Konfessionslos*. The Politicization  
of Leaving Church in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

10.45 Jessica R. Strom | Mansfield (Connecticut)  
Nationalists Abroad: Adriano Lemmi,  
Giuseppe Mazzini, and Lajos Kossuth

11.15 Coffee Break

11.45 Fulvio Conti | Firenze  
Commentary, Discussion

12.45 Lunch Break

14.00 *Midday-Lectures*

Monika Wohlrab-Sahr | Leipzig  
Multiple Secularities: A Comparative Perspective on  
the Study of Religion and its Other

Todd Weir | Groningen  
Two Cultures Debate: Secularism and Socialism in  
Germany 1870 to 1933

15.00 Short Coffee Break

### III - Identities and Practices of Freethought

Chair: Costanza D'Elia | Cassino

15.15 Laura Fournier Finocchiaro | Paris  
Garibaldi and Mazzini: Anticlericalism, Laicism,  
and the Concept of a National Religion

15.40 Antoine Mandret-Degeilh | Toulouse, Paris  
A Secular Avant-Garde? About the Unknown  
Freethinker Roots of Today's French Civil Baptism

16.05 Christhardt Henschel | Warszawa  
Cultures of Reading. Self-Images of Polish Freethinkers

16.30 Coffee Break

17.00 Jakub Basista | Kraków  
Commentary, Discussion

20.00 Dinner for all Participants

## Friday, 23 March, 9.15–14.00

### IV - Projects. Freethought, Science and Politics

Chair: Thomas Blanck | Köln

9.15 Carolin Kosuch | Roma  
Cremation and the Material Culture of 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
European Freethought

9.40 Claus Spenninger | München  
Vestiges of a Secular Movement:  
Scientific Materialism in the 1850s between  
Emancipation and Technocracy

10.05 Christoffer Leber | München  
Integration through Science? The Monist Movement  
in Imperial Germany between Nationalism  
and Internationalism (1910–1915)

10.30 Katalin Straner | Firenze, Southampton  
Evolution and Nation in the Press: The Hungarian  
Reception of Darwinism before and after  
the *Ausgleich* (1859–1875)

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 Rebekka Habermas | Göttingen  
Commentary, Discussion

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Final Roundtable with Monika Wohlrab-Sahr | Leipzig

14.00 End of Conference