



Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen  
Institute for Human Sciences

Press release – 27 September 2023

## The Changing Fortunes of Cosmopolitanism: Demos, Cosmos and Globus

We are honored to welcome Seyla Benhabib, Professor of Political Science and Philosophy Emerita at Yale University, Scholar in Residence at Columbia Law School, and one of the leading exponents of contemporary Critical Theory, as the speaker of this year's IWM Lectures in Human Sciences.

The intense interest in cosmopolitanism in the social and political sciences, cultural and legal studies dates back to the last two decades of the twentieth century. With the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the reunification of Germany, and the extension of the European Union to east and central European countries formerly under Communist rule, the Kantian cosmopolitan ideal of uniting diverse countries under the rule of law, respect for human rights and the free exchange of goods and services seemed to come alive. By the beginning of the new century, cosmopolitanism had fallen on hard times. This series will defend cosmopolitanism from below by engaging with the postcolonial critiques of Kantian thought, voiced by James Tully, Inez Valdez, Sylvia Wynter, and Walter Dignolo. The three lectures bearing the overarching title "The Changing Fortunes of Cosmopolitanism: Demos, Cosmos and Globus" will be held on **5, 11, and 19 October 2023** at the **University of Vienna** (see below).

**Seyla Benhabib** has held appointments at Yale, Columbia, and Harvard, in addition to numerous visiting professorships around the world. Among her many publications are *Exile, Statelessness, and Migration. Playing Chess with History from Hannah Arendt to Isaiah Berlin* (2018), *Another Cosmopolitanism* (2006), *The Claims of Culture* (2003), and *The Rights of Others* (2004). Her work has been translated into twelve languages. Benhabib is currently Albert Hirschman Fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences.

**About the IWM Lectures in Human Sciences:** The IWM launched this series of public lectures in 2000 on the occasion of the 100th birthday of Hans Georg Gadamer, a supporter of the Institute since its inception. Previous speakers include distinguished scholars such as Paul Ricoeur, Zygmunt Bauman, Dipesh Chakrabarty, and Eva Illouz. Selected lectures have been published in English (Harvard University Press, Cambridge), German (Passagen Verlag, Wien; Suhrkamp Verlag, Berlin), and Polish (Kurhaus Publishers, Warsaw).

The lecture series is organized in cooperation with the Departments of Philosophy, Sociology, Political Science, and Anthropology at the University of Vienna.

### **Save the date:**

**IWM Lectures in Human Sciences with Seyla Benhabib - The Changing Fortunes of Cosmopolitanism: Demos, Cosmos and Globus**

**Part I. Kantian Cosmopolitanism and its Critics**

Date: Thursday, 5 October 2023, 18:30

Location: Universitätsring 1, Kleiner Festsaal der Universität Wien (Hauptgebäude), 1010 Vienna  
URL: <https://www.iwm.at/event/part-i-the-changing-fortunes-of-cosmopolitanism-demos-cosmos-and-globus-kantian> (registration required)

**Part II. From the Hermeneutics of Suspicion to Reconstructing Cosmopolitan Law**

Date: Wednesday, 11 October 2023, 18:30

Location: Oskar-Morgenstern-Platz 1 (Entrance via Berggasse), Hörsaal 14 of the University of Vienna, 1090 Vienna

URL: <https://www.iwm.at/event/part-ii-the-changing-fortunes-of-cosmopolitanism-demos-cosmos-and-globus-from-the> (registration required)

**Part III. The Globe as World, Earth and Planet**

Date: Thursday, 19 October 2023, 18:30

Location: Oskar-Morgenstern-Platz 1 (Entrance via Berggasse), Hörsaal 14 of the University of Vienna, 1090 Vienna

URL: <https://www.iwm.at/event/part-iii-the-changing-fortunes-of-cosmopolitanism-demos-cosmos-and-globus-the-globe-as-world> (registration required)

**Contact information:**

Institute for Human Sciences

Jakob Angeli

Content & PR Manager

+43-1-313-58-207

[iwm-pr@iwm.at](mailto:iwm-pr@iwm.at)