

November 2023

Socratic Dialogues in Münster from 09 to 12 February 2024 (Carnival weekend)

Dear friends of Socratic Dialogue,

You are cordially invited to our first Socratic Dialogues on Carnival weekend 2024 in Münster!

As always, we are announcing this traditional weekend of dialogue a little early. Our full Socratic programme for next year will follow later, probably in December. The registration form for Münster, which includes the cost of accommodation (including full board), is attached. An online registration form is also available:

<https://forms.gle/1E8RjBd5G47v27Wq9>

SG 01/2024 Karneval 09.-12.02.24 DRK-Tagungshotel Münster (4 Gesprächsgruppen)

Informationen über das Tagungshaus unter/ Information about the conference venue at::

<https://www.drk-bildungsinstitut.de/tagungshotel/spalte-1/tagungshotel/tagungshotel-dunant.html>

■ **Katrin Norddorf: *Mathematisches Thema***

Kommentar:

Im mathematischen Gespräch bearbeiten die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer einen von der Gesprächsleiterin vorgelegten konkreten mathematischen Sachverhalt unter einer von ihnen selbst gewählten Frage und suchen im Wechselgespräch auf diese Frage gemeinsam eine Antwort. Der mathematische Sachverhalt ist dabei als Gesprächsgegenstand so gewählt, dass er sowohl für mathematisch Geübte als auch für mathematisch Ungeübte gut fasslich und verstehbar ist. Weil die Ausgangslage des Gespräches für alle Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer möglichst gleich sein soll, wird der mathematische Sachverhalt erst zu Beginn des Seminars bekanntgegeben.

■ **Wolfgang Dinges: *Struggling with Self-control***

Commentary:

We all encounter situations where our actions don't conform to what we had planned, what we had in mind, what we had been, at some point in time, so determined to do. Exercise more regularly, eat less. Stop drinking or smoking. Read more. Start to learn that language. Seize that opportunity. Start that project - let alone finish it.

Of course there are external reasons and justifications - sometimes. But the question remains: Why am I incapable to do what I certainly, back then, wanted to do, decided to do, with best intentions, with all my heart? Why these difficulties? Despite all the reading about willpower and self-management techniques? And why does it work, sometimes?

What does this tell us about our life as human beings, about our ambition, goals and limitations in general? Based on stories of our personal experience we will try to gain some clarity.

- **Paolo Dordoni: *Was ist überhaupt das Schamgefühl?***

Kommentar:

Das Schamgefühl kann in verschiedenen Phasen des Lebens auftauchen. Kinder, Junge, Erwachsene, ältere Menschen, sogar sterbende Menschen können diesem Gefühl begegnen, je nach Kontext (Liebe, Sorge, Selbsterkenntnis usw.) und Situation (in der Schule, an der Arbeit, in der Praxis, allein, vor Anderen). Es handelt sich um ein Thema, dessen Erarbeitung Takt und Respekt braucht. Die Erfahrung, die wir in unserem Gespräch wählen werden, in der unsere gemeinsame Erkenntnis verankert sein wird, wird unsere gemeinsame Untersuchung mitbestimmen und begleiten, mit der Überzeugung, dass sie etwas wesentlich für unser Thema enthält. Es geht um den Kern dieses Gefühls, um seine Besonderheit, um seine Fähigkeit, etwas zu enthüllen. Dies zu untersuchen, Schritt für Schritt, wird unsere gemeinsame Aufgabe.

- **Horst Gronke: *Wozu schreiben wir?***

Kommentar:

To-do-Listen, Einkaufslisten, Briefe, Tagebucheinträge, Gedichte, Abhandlungen, E-Mails, X-Posts, Grabinschriften, Kommentare wie dieser hier, usw. Es gibt wahrscheinlich Tausende Formen des Geschriebenen. Genau besehen, ist das „Wozu?“ des Schreibens nicht immer eindeutig. Vielleicht kommt die Gruppe auch dazu, die philosophisch tieferliegende Frage nach dem „Sinn“ des Schreibens zu untersuchen. Schön wäre es, wenn einige Teilnehmende etwas mitbrächten, das sie selbst geschrieben haben oder das an sie geschrieben worden ist (etwas, was zu den oben erwähnten oder anderen Formen des Schreibens gehört), und uns etwas über den Zusammenhang berichten könnten. Das Gespräch beginnt mit dem Lesen (nicht Vorlesen) des Geschriebenen.

Further important information

Annual Programme 2024

Soon, probably in December, we will send out the annual programme of our Socratic events for 2024. You will then also find it on our website <https://www.philosophisch-politische-akademie.de/veranstaltungen/>

The Socratic dialogue process

We usually work in groups of about eight to ten people on one topic using the Socratic method. In the so-called meta-dialogues, the participants will have the opportunity to discuss the problems that have arisen in the Socratic Dialogues as well as questions about

the method within the group. We would also like to invite you to the evening events "Socratic Evening", "Political Evening" and "Feldenkrais Evening".

Please note: The continuity of the work in the Socratic dialogue group from the first to the last day is an important prerequisite for the success of the discussion. Therefore, it is not possible to switch from one group to another, nor is it possible to participate only partially (come later, leave earlier).

Pupils, trainees, students, the unemployed and other people on low-incomes are entitled to a reduced participation fee. This reduction can be requested on the registration form. The non-profit organisation "Freunde und Förderer des Sokratischen Gesprächs" (FFSG), which provides the funds for the discounts, also grants subsidies for travel costs on request. If you would like to apply for a subsidy towards your travel costs, please send an informal letter to the first chairman of the FFSG, Peter Heckmann: peter.heckmann@gmx.net.

Voluntary sponsorship contribution:

Our facilitators often practise the Socratic Dialogue method in their professional work. However, their work within the PPA, GSP and SFCP is purely voluntary. Nevertheless, the cost of supporting our events through the PPA and SFCP runs into five figures each year. We would therefore be very grateful for a donation of any amount over and above the normal participation fee. You will of course receive a donation receipt from our charities.

Methods of Payment:

Conference fees for all events can be found on the registration form (next page). Deposits and participation fees are to be transferred to the account of the Philosophical-Political Academy, quoting the seminar number SG 01/2024:

Sparkasse KölnBonn, IBAN: DE16370501981931539884; BIC: COLSDE33XXX

**When transferring money, please quote the seminar number SG 01/2024
on the transfer form.**

The registration and the deposit of €25 should be received **within 4 weeks, at the latest by 24 December 2023**. Registrations will be processed on a first come first served basis. If your application cannot be considered, your deposit will of course be refunded.

The full participation fee must be paid **three weeks prior to the start of the event**. The seminar venues have tightened their cancellation policies considerably in the wake of the corona pandemic. In the case of the DRK Conference Hotel Münster, the following **cancellation conditions** are binding:

If you cancel your registration up to **29.12.2023** (6 weeks) before the start of the event, you will have to pay a **40% cancellation fee**; up to **26.01.2024** (2 weeks) before the start of the event, you will have to pay an **80% cancellation fee**. These fees are charged by the conference venue.

You will receive the latest information, including a description of the route and the list of participants, approximately three weeks before the start of the event. You can also find updates on our programme of events for 2024 and explanations of the Socratic Dialogue method on our website: www.sokratisches-gespraech.de



Here you can also register online for our Socratic Dialogues:

<https://forms.gle/1E8RJbD5G47v27Wq9>

Kind regards and best wishes for 2024,

Jens Peter Brune (GSP)

Bernadette Thöne (GSP)

Hans-Peter Griewatz (GSP)

Klaus Draken (PPA)

Julie-Marie ffrench Devitt (SFCP)