



CALL FOR PAPERS

VIIIth International Conference of Theory and Philosophy of History

The Usefulness of History

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Campus Viña del Mar – Chile, August 30th –
September 1st 2017

Department of History and Department of Philosophy

“What is the use of history?” was the acute question which Marc Bloch tried to answer in his *Apologie pour l’Histoire* in 1941, question that starts his reflections about the historian’s craft. In fact, the interest on the utility of the systematic knowledge of the past has been at the center of historians’ and philosophers’ concern since the birth of this discipline. Herodotus recognized the ability of joy and enchantment of history, being that one of the starting points for his reflections and analysis. For him, as well as for Thucydides, Polibius, and other classical historians, the usefulness of history was undeniable and rested mainly in its didactic and exemplar value, which took Cicero to define it as *magistra vitae*. During centuries, such value and usefulness seemed to be something inherent to the historical knowledge, until the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when some authors like Hegel started to question it, while others, like Nietzsche and Droysen, still believed in it, as was recently exposed by Christopher Bouton. Along the twentieth century, and in the first decades of the twenty-first century, the usefulness and the guiding function of historical knowledge have been consistently challenged and even denied. In the latter perspective, history emerges as a peculiar way of engaging with the past, becoming even in some cases only a mode of discourse, whose purpose is alien to its usefulness and pragmatic value to the present (Hayden White and Michael Oakeshott).

The aim of the VIIIth International Conference of Theory and Philosophy of History is to think and discuss about the problem of the usefulness of history. What is the use of history? For whom is history useful? Should the usefulness of its knowledge be considered among the goals of the historical discipline for present? Should the historian consider in his analysis the uses that can be done of his knowledge in the present? Does the knowledge of the past provide something to the knowledge of the present? Or rather, is it necessary for the historian to put aside every useful and pragmatic consideration of his task when researching? Can history, being a complex recreation of the past, have a therapeutic character in the relationship between that past and the present? What are the limits of the usefulness of history? What are the limits among usefulness, utilization and manipulation of history? These are some of the questions that will be at the heart of this Conference, and therefore, will stimulate the interdisciplinary discussion among history, philosophy and other humanistic disciplines.

**Organizing Committee:**

Rodrigo Moreno, Paola Corti y José Widow, professors of the History and Philosophy Departments of the Faculty of Liberal Arts of the Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez.

Place:

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Viña del Mar, Chile.
Av. Padre Hurtado 750, Viña del Mar
Teléfonos: 56-32-2503827, 56-32-2503866, 56-32-2503724.

Dates:

August 30th – September 1st, 2017.

Deadline for submissions:

The deadline for submitting the Registration Form is April 30th, 2017. The Registration Form must include the title and an abstract of at least 7,500 characters (including spaces). The acceptance or rejection of presentations will be informed on May 15th.

Papers/sessions:

1. Languages of the Conference: Spanish, English, French, Italian, and Portuguese.
2. Send a registration form with the title of the presentation and an abstract of at least 7,500 characters (including spaces) until April 30th, 2017.
3. Thirty minutes will be allotted to each paper (20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for questions and discussion).
4. In order to be published, papers will be up 60,000 characters (including spaces). Size: letter or A4. Line spacing: 1½. Format: Word, Times New Roman, 12. Footnotes, Times New Roman, 10. The footnotes should show all the information related to cited works. There will be no bibliography at the end of the paper.
5. Papers should be emailed to the Conference Committee in their final version by August 11th, 2017.
6. Acceptance to the Conference does not mean acceptance for publication. Papers will be published after approval by the Editor Committee and peer review. Conference fee covers only Conference attendance. It is not a right to publish.
7. Papers accepted but finally not presented and discussed at the Conference will not be published.
8. Papers that do not fit with the specific subject of the Conference will not be accepted.



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Fee:

Speaker	\$ 40.000US\$ 70
Participant with certification	\$ 25.000
Student with certification	\$ 10.000
Students and attendees without certification	free