

Horizons of Truth

Gödel Centenary 2006 - International Symposium
Celebrating the 100th Birthday of Kurt Gödel
Grand Opening by Federal President Dr. Heinz Fischer
26th April, 17:00, University of Vienna, Großer Festsaal

Kurt Gödel is internationally regarded as one of the finest mathematicians and logicians ever. He was certainly the most outstanding Austrian in this field.

Gödel was born in Brünn in 1906. He studied mathematics at the University of Vienna, where he received his PhD in 1929 and his Habilitation in 1932. His most important mathematical results, among them his incompleteness theorem, were conceived during this Vienna period.

Kurt Gödel demonstrated that computable axiomatic systems which are sufficiently powerful to describe arithmetic on the natural numbers cannot be both consistent and complete (incompleteness theorem). And that for any consistent formal theory proving basic arithmetical truths, it is possible to construct an arithmetical statement that is true but not provable in the theory. With this result, Gödel abolished a mathematical program which was pursued world-wide at the time: the attempt to logically deduce all mathematical statements. And he showed that human reason can go beyond mere mathematical and logical deduction.

After the annexation of Austria to national-socialist Germany, Kurt Gödel left Austria in 1940 and joined many scientists in exile at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton. There, he became a close colleague and associate of Albert Einstein.

Gödel's work must be viewed in a more comprehensive framework. The substantial effects of his work on other fields of research, like artificial intelligence, cosmology, philosophy and theology, require serious scientific attention.

The international symposium "Horizons of Truth", initiated and financed by the John Templeton Foundation, aims at interpreting Kurt Gödel's work and its implications for contemporary science.

The organizers are honored and pleased to announce that the **Federal President Dr. Heinz Fischer** will inaugurate the symposium on Wednesday, April 26, 17:00 in a grand opening at the University of Vienna.

During the conference, **Garri Kasparow**, the former world champion of chess and the symposium's guest of honor, will conduct the awards ceremony for the symposium's young scientists' competition (not open to the public).

One of the highlights of the scientific program will be one of the renowned "Wiener Vorlesungen", a public lecture by **Sir Roger Penrose** on Saturday, 29th April, 17:00, City Hall, Vienna.

Further Information:

<http://www.logic.at/goedel2006>

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The symposium is organized by the **Kurt Gödel Society** and supported by the **John Templeton Foundation**.

Co-organizers are the Vienna University of Technology, the Experimental Physics Institute and the Faculty for Mathematics at the University of Vienna, the Kurt Gödel Research Center and the Institute Vienna Circle.