

## Acknowledgements

The present volume is primarily based on an international workshop on “Traveling Ideas and their Mediators” that was convened in June 2018 by “The North Atlantic Triangle” commission of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, in which scholars from several disciplines on both sides of the Atlantic participated. It continued the lively discussion on the exchange of ideas across the Atlantic, which in the nineteenth century was fostered by a growing sense, among scholars in the US and Canada, of elective affinity with Central European culture and of sharing scholarly and scientific interests and projects.

Joint efforts to meet major challenges in the modern world persisted in the twentieth century, despite major conflicts and dramatic confrontations resulting in estrangement from earlier affinities and leading to new alliances in the political sphere. Historians investigate how new conflicts gave rise to transatlantic social movements, which tried to prevent the nuclear build-up in the Cold War from resulting in an apocalypse. The twentieth century also saw the fertilization of philosophical thinking by the reciprocal adoption of key ideas from overseas, which was facilitated, for instance, by the establishment of international academic societies. Significantly, prominent American philosophers inspired new scholarly approaches in Austrian academic work such as film philosophy, while Ludwig Wittgenstein’s thinking fostered the elaboration of sophisticated approaches by Canadian scholars in the same discipline. Analyses by experts from the field of philosophy of these influences which bring about a new elective affinity supplement the presentation of earlier interconnections discussed at the workshop.

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