Over the last two decades, there has been an immense revival of interest in German romanticism and idealism. Philosophers working in a variety of areas have embraced the ideas of the German romantics and idealists, disentangling them from false or misunderstood legacies, and reexamining them in light of contemporary debates.

In spite of this increase of interest, however, one of the key concerns of romanticism and idealism remains largely overlooked. The idea of nature, the relation between the human being and the natural world, and the notion of a philosophy of nature were, arguably, the most central and definitive concerns of philosophers around 1800. This is evident not only in Kant’s *Critique of Judgment*, but also in Schelling’s *Naturphilosophie*, Hegel’s philosophies of nature and history, Goethe’s scientific and methodological writings, Herder’s anthropology and philosophy of science, as well as Friedrich Schlegel’s and Novalis’s theoretical and poetic accounts of the natural world and the human place within it.

This conference aims to shed light on the romantic and idealist concern with nature and the philosophy of nature by posing and responding to the following questions:

- What is the idea of nature, and what is the relation between nature and culture?
- What is the meaning of a philosophy of nature?
- What are the various methodologies by which to approach nature philosophically?
- How does the philosophy of nature differ from, complement, or develop the accounts of nature offered in the sciences of the time?
- What is the legacy of the romantic and idealist conceptions of nature?

**SCHEDULE**

**Monday 15 June**


11.15-12.45: DALIA NASSAR, “Explanation through Description: The New Paradigm of Romantic Empiricism”

12.45-2: Lunch

2-3.30: ANIK WALDOW, “Collapsing the Border between History and Nature – Herder’s Argument for an Experience-grounded Philosophy”

3.30-5: RYAN FEIGENBAUM, “On Blumenbach’s Concept of Nature”

**Tuesday 16 June**

9.30-1.30: Workshop on KANT AND THE SCIENCES (PAPERS WILL BE PRE-CIRCULATED AND DISCUSSED IN WORKSHOP, EMAIL DALIA NASSAR FOR COPIES OF PAPERS*):

STEPHEN GAUKROGER, “Kant and the Nature of Matter”
ANIKA WALDOW, “Natural History and the Formation of the Human Being: Kant on Active Forces”
DANIELA HELBIG & DALIA NASSAR, “The Epigenesis of Reason: Kant, Blumenbach, and Herder”
JOHN ZAMMITO, “Situating Kant’s Views on Epigenesis: Some Recent Revisions”
DALIA NASSAR, “Analogical Reflection as the Source for a Science of Life”

1.30-3: Lunch

3-4.30: SEBASTIAN GARDNER, “Nature in Kant’s third Critique”

Wednesday 17 June


12-4.5-2: Lunch

2-3.30: SIMON LUMSDEN, “The Problem of Teleology in Hegel's Philosophy of Nature and the Philosophy of History”

3.30-5: JOHN ZAMMITO, “Reill’s Vitalizing Nature in the Enlightenment and German Naturphilosophie”

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