Invitation

The Sir Peter Ustinov Institute kindly invites you to attend the lecture:

„In Defense of Modern Times“

Prof. Dr. Clemens Jabloner
(Department of Legal Philosophy, University of Vienna)

Monday, 6th May 2019 09:45 to 11:15 am
University of Vienna
(Hörsaal 7, Hauptgebäude, Hochparterre, Stiege 7)

Within the framework of the lecture series “Tolerance, Intolerance, and Liberalism” of Sir Peter Ustinov Guest Professor Dr. Robert Knight, the director of the Hans Kelsen Institute and professor of Legal Philosophy, Prof. Dr. Clemens Jabloner, will hold the lecture “In Defense of Modern Times”:

What can Hans Kelsen teach us today? Some years ago, the Hans Kelsen Institute in Vienna published Kelsen's opus posthumous “Secular Religion – A Polemic against the Misinterpretation of Modern Social Philosophy, Science and Politics as ‘New Religion’”. This fascinating text is the culmination of Kelsen's enduring critique of the work of his former pupil Eric Voegelin's “New Science of Politics”.

It is illuminating that previous versions of this work were titled “Defense of Modern Times” and “Religion without God?”. Both these alternatives seem highly significant: Kelsen as a “champion of modernity” serves quite well as a “Leitmotiv” – and so makes a suitable title for my lecture.

Then again, “Religion without God” – with a question mark – is almost identical to the title of the last monograph by the distinguished philosopher Ronald Dworkin - “Religion without God”. Together they give me a useful platform for addressing both these eminent scholars. At the same time, I will also discuss Kelsen’s concept of religion, with a view to his Jewish background.