



Site of Conference:  
Universitätscampus  
**Aula**  
Hof 1, Spitalgasse 2  
1090 Wien

Conference Language: English

Free admission,  
Registration until: November 25, 2003

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#### IMPRESSUM

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**Institut  
Wiener Kreis**  
Institute  
Vienna Circle

**28.–29. November 2003**

9:00–12:00, 14:00–19:00

**Universität Wien**

Universitätscampus, Aula  
Hof 1, Spitalgasse 2, A-1090 Wien

**International  
Conference**

**Cambridge  
and  
Vienna –**

**Frank P. Ramsey  
and  
the Vienna Circle**

organised by the Institute Vienna Circle  
together with the  
Center for Interdisciplinary Research  
at the University of Vienna

**SPEAKERS:**

Peter Clark, *St. Andrews*  
Wolfgang Degen, *Erlangen*  
Michael Dummett, *Oxford*  
Maria Carla Galavotti, *Bologna*  
Eckehart Köhler, *Vienna*  
Werner Leinfellner, *Vienna*  
Brian McGuinness, *Sienna*  
Stathis Psillos, *Athens*  
Brian Skyrms, *Irvine*  
Friedrich Stadler, *Vienna*  
Patrick Suppes, *Stanford*  
Gabriele Taylor, *Oxford*

**TOPICS:**

Foundation of Language, Logic, Probability  
and Decision Theory  
Relation to Psychology  
Knowledge and Truth  
Actions and Belief  
Decision and Probability

Philosophy of Mathematics: Panel on Logicism  
Relations between Number Theory and Logic  
Semantic vs. set Theoretical Paradoxes  
Ramsey, Russel, Carnap and Gödel

**Biography**

Ramsey and Wittgenstein  
Ramsey and Schlick  
New Manuscripts by Ramsey

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE:**

Maria Carla Galavotti  
*University of Bologna*  
Eckehart Köhler  
*University of Vienna, Chair*  
Friedrich Stadler  
*University of Vienna and  
Director IVC*

**Information**

<http://www.univie.ac.at/ivc/Ramsey/>

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## Program

### 28. November, 2003

- 9:15      *Opening Ceremony and Introduction*  
*Friedrich Stadler*  
(Vienna)  
*Werner Leinfellner*  
(Vienna)
- 10:00      *Patrick Suppes*  
(Stanford)  
"Ramsey's Psychological Theory of Belief"
- 11:00–11:20      *Coffee break*
- 11:20      *Sir Michael Dummett*  
(Oxford)  
"Ramsey and the Vicious Circle Principle"
- 12:20–14:20      *Lunch break*
- 14:20      *Brian Skyrms*  
(Irvine)  
"The Value of Knowledge – On a Manuscript at Cambridge"
- 15:20      *Stathis Psillos*  
(Athens)  
"Ramsey–Sentences: From Descriptivism to Structuralism and Back Again"
- 16:20–16:40      *Coffee break*
- 16:40      Session in memoriam Donald Davidson  
(1917–2003)

### 29. November, 2003

- 9:00      *Peter Clark*  
(St. Andrews)  
"Ramsey and Logicism"
- 10:00      *Wolfgang Degen*  
(Erlangen)  
"Logical Problems Suggested by Logicism"
- 11:00–11:20      *Coffee break*
- 11:20      *Eckehart Köhler*  
(Vienna)  
"Ramsey and the Vienna Circle on Logicism"
- 12:20–14:20      *Lunch break*
- 14:20      *Brian McGuinness*  
(Siena)  
"Ramsey and Wittgenstein"
- 15:20      *Gabriele Taylor*  
(Oxford)  
"Frank Ramsey – A Biographical Sketch"
- 16:20–16:40      *Coffee break*
- 16:40      *Maria Carla Galavotti*  
(Bologna)  
"Ramsey's 'On Time' - an Unpublished Manuscript"
- 17:40      *Closing discussion*



## **Cambridge and Vienna – Frank P. Ramsey and the Vienna Circle**

International Conference in Vienna on 28th–29th November 2003, to commemorate the philosophical and scientific work of Frank Plumpton Ramsey (1903–1930).

This conference is intended to provide not only historical and biographical perspectives on one of the most gifted thinkers of the Twentieth Century, but also to give new impulses for further research on at least some of the topics pioneered by Ramsey, whose interest and potential are greater than ever.

Ramsey did pioneering work in several fields, practitioners of which rarely know of his important work in other fields: philosophy of logic and theory of language, foundations of mathematics, mathematics, probability theory, methodology of science, philosophy of psychology, and economics.

Distinguished speakers have been won already to speak on language and probability. There will be a focus on the one topic which was of strongest mutual concern to Ramsey and the Vienna Circle, namely the question of foundations of mathematics, in particular the status of logicism.

Although the major scientific connection linking Ramsey with Austria is his work on logic, to which the Vienna Circle dedicated several meetings, certainly the connection which is of greater general interest concerns Ramsey's visits and discussions with Wittgenstein. Ramsey was the only important thinker to actually visit Wittgenstein during his school-teaching career in Puchberg and Ottertal in the 1920s, in Lower Austria; and later, Ramsey was instrumental in getting Wittgenstein positions at Cambridge.

## **Frank P. Ramsey**

Ramsey's life realized the ideal ivory-tower career. Son of the President of Magdalene College at Cambridge, he was Scholar at Trinity College (where Russell had taught), Fellow at King's College and then University Lecturer in Mathematics. Unlike other denizens of the ivory tower, Ramsey was recognized and welcomed as a genius in many compartments, not just one. Maynard Keynes, for example, held Ramsey's paper on Saving to be "one of the most remarkable contributions to mathematical economics ever made". Ramsey was a member of the discussion society Apostles at Cambridge together with Russell, Moore and Wittgenstein; and almost automatically given high regard by the Bloomsbury Group – proving that, at least in Cambridge, literary culture and scientific culture were not hermetically separated.

In 1925, the second edition of Whitehead & Russell's *Principia Mathematica* appeared – a "bible" for key members of the Vienna Circle – containing fundamental revisions of its underlying logical architecture. Russell gave the credit to the brilliant 22-year-old Englishman Frank Ramsey. For the exceedingly anglophile Vienna Circle, Ramsey thus was catapulted into the foremost rank of scientific philosophy, perhaps outranking in accomplishment what Wittgenstein had promised to achieve. Those members of the Vienna Circle struggling with Wittgenstein were perhaps even more impressed by Ramsey's passionate and supremely informed efforts to understand the *Tractatus*.