

A photograph of Karl Popper, an elderly man with white hair, wearing a light blue short-sleeved shirt. He is sitting at a dark wooden table outdoors, leaning forward and writing on a white sheet of paper with a black marker. On the table in front of him are two white coffee cups on saucers and a black smartphone displaying the date and location. The background shows a brick building with windows and a green lawn with some outdoor furniture.

# Karl Popper and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Philosophy of Science

12 – 14  
June  
2024  
HKUST

## Keynote Speakers

**Donald Gillies**

Emeritus Professor of Philosophy of  
Science and Mathematics  
University College London, UK

**John Norton**

Distinguished Professor of History and  
Philosophy of Science  
University of Pittsburgh, USA

**Zuzana Parusniková**

Research Professor of Philosophy  
Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech  
Republic

**Stephen Turner**

Distinguished University Professor of  
Philosophy  
University of South Florida, USA

Karl Popper (1902-1994) is regarded as one of the most influential philosophers of science of the twentieth century. He famously proposed that falsifiability is the genuine virtue of science and the criterion of the scientific status of a theory. Based on this, he developed a systematic account of scientific method and scientific development, namely, falsificationism. In addition, Popper played an important role in promoting the historical turn in twentieth century philosophy of science. The debate over the nature and development of science between him and Thomas Kuhn dominated and sparked many discussions in the late 1960s philosophy of science. Moreover, Popper wrote on a variety of topics, including evolutionary biology, methodological individualism, and probability. However, Popper's legacy on contemporary philosophy of science is surprisingly thin. Although his writings are still a must-read in any introductory philosophy of science course, there is no lively Popperian philosophy of science. His falsificationism is not viewed as a plausible account of scientific development. Nor is his solution to the problem of induction regarded as a successful or promising move. This conference aims to revisit and explore Popper's legacy for twentieth-first century philosophy of science.

Hosted by Division of Humanities, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

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