

In memory of Prof. Wolfgang Lefèvre (1941–2025)

The International Hegel Society mourns the passing of Wolfgang Lefèvre, who died on December 25, 2025, in Berlin. Wolfgang Lefèvre was a member of our society's executive committee from 1982 to 1992, together with Heinz Kimmerle (Rotterdam) and Rudolf W. Meyer (Zurich), and as its chairman he organized the 1988 International Hegel Congress at the Free University of Berlin on the theme of "Nature and Spirit". During this congress, the board was confirmed in office by the members. In the run-up to the 1982 Hegel Congress in Athens, Wolfgang Lefèvre played a major role in fending off attempts by some party ideologues from East and West with close ties to the SED to take over the International Hegel Society. His commitment to our society remains unforgotten.

While studying philosophy, sociology, and history at the Free University of Berlin, Wolfgang Lefèvre was one of the protagonists of the student movement and, as a representative of the Socialist German Student Union, was chairman of the General Student Committee from 1965 onwards. In 1971, he received his doctorate under Jakob Taubes with a thesis on Max Weber; the process became a political issue when attempts were made (ultimately unsuccessfully) to prevent him from obtaining his doctorate and filling an assistant position with the designation "history of science on a socio-historical basis." With his work *Naturtheorie und Produktionsweise*, published in 1978, Wolfgang Lefèvre qualified as a professor at the Free University of Berlin and, after renewed political disputes, was appointed temporary professor of philosophy and history of science there. From 1994 onwards, he worked at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin and published numerous fundamental works on the history of science. He was convinced that the history of science, in relation to social history, is a precondition for an adequate understanding of the history of philosophy, which can only be comprehended on this basis. The theme of the Berlin Hegel Congress, "Nature and Spirit", arose from this insight, which is also groundbreaking for further engagement with Hegel.

The International Hegel Society owes Wolfgang Lefèvre a great debt and will always honor his memory.

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