

Interdisciplinary conference
Institutional Inertia and Transformation

Leiden Centre for Continental Philosophy

3–4 June 2026

Wednesday 3 June

9:30 **Bart Zantvoort**, welcome and conference opening

10:00 **Thomas Bedorf**, Iterability of Institution as *Pièce de Resistance* against Inertia

10:45 coffee

11:00 **Daniil Koloskov**, Hollow Institutions: a Merleau-Pontian Account of Institutional Inertia

11:45 **Xenophon Tenezakis**, Gramsci: Institutional Inertia as Catastrophic Equilibrium

12:30 lunch

13:45 **Jeroen Hopster**, Institutional Transformation: Desirability and Feasibility

14:30 **Maeve Cooke**, Institutional Inertia and Institutional Change

15:15 coffee

15:30 **Frank Hindriks**, Why Is Institutional Change So Difficult?

16:15 **Julia Wittmayer**, Social Innovations and Institutional Change: Contestations and Dialectics

17:00 Panel and open discussion – **What is institutional inertia?** (What is (an) institution? What are the causes of inertia? What is the relation between institutional change and stability? When is inertia ‘enabling’ and when is it problematic?)

Thursday 4 June

9:30 **Gregor Schäfer**, The Idea – and its Rest: Situating Institutional Inertia in Hegel

10:15 **Matthew Delhey**, Institutional Inertia and Social Ontology: A Hegelian View

11:00 coffee

11:15 **Julie Van der Wielen**, Institutional Psychotherapy and Analysis: a Historical and Conceptual Introduction

12:00 **Lucie Middlemiss**, Embracing the Inertia of Family Life in Aspirations for the Sustainability Transition

12:45 lunch

14:00 **Peter Sutoris**, When Inertias Collide: Micro-Activism and Institutional Persistence in Sustainability Transformations

14:45 **Nick Psomas**, Autonomy in the Face of the More-Than-Human: Toward a Theory of Radically Entangled Democracy

15:30 coffee

15:45 **Vangelis Giannakakis**, Inertia and Event: Art in the Time of Catastrophe

16:30 Panel and open discussion – **How can we resist, escape, transform, or use institutional inertia?**

17:30 closing