

Preface

This is the first of two volumes containing the proceedings of the conference ‘Image and Imaging in Philosophy, Science, and the Arts’, which was organised by Richard Heinrich, Elisabeth Nemeth and Wolfram Pichler, and held as the 33rd International Wittgenstein Symposium in Kirchberg (Austria) in August 2010.

The image, and in particular the status of images and diagrams as cultural and historical phenomena, as artifacts, as objects, or as tools of scientific interest, has for some decades been one of the most popular topics in interdisciplinary academic research. The aim of the Kirchberg conference was to provide a critical survey of the development of, as well as an occasion for more profound investigation into important issues that have been raised in the field. This is not necessarily best achieved by searching for a homogeneous perspective from a single vantage point. Philosophy has still to react to many recent developments in the sciences, in cultural studies and art history which address the topic of the image from different directions. Nonetheless, the significance that the concept of the image has throughout Wittgenstein’s own philosophy, the varieties of aspects of images and diagrams which he discussed or used as examples, gave us important clues for the structuring of both the symposium and the proceedings.

The contributions collected in these two volumes cover a wide range of disciplines, from philosophy, psychology, and sociology to the history of science, art history, and poetology. The first volume includes (1) papers dedicated to various aspects of Wittgenstein’s philosophy, especially but not exclusively to questions of picture-theory, (2) further studies in the history and theory (and history of the theory) of the image. The latter are presented under three Wittgensteinian headings: ‘Seeing-as’, ‘Saying and Showing’, and ‘Image-

games'. While 'Seeing-as', and 'Saying and Showing' were section titles at the Kirchberg conference, the third heading, 'Image-games', was taken from the relevant papers. The volume attests to the important role played by these notions in various debates on images, only some of which are directly related to Wittgenstein's work.

The second volume is also structured in two parts. It contains (1) papers first presented at the workshop 'Picturing Social Facts. Otto Neurath's Visual Language', organised by Elisabeth Nemeth and Friedrich Stadler as part of the Kirchberg conference; (2) papers which have been read in sections on the topics of diagrammatic representation, mapping, and modelling. Taken as a whole, the second volume addresses the expanding field of 'diagrammatology' (to use Tom Mitchell's neologism).

Inevitably, there are thematic overlaps between the two volumes, and not every decision which had to be taken in view of their composition was an obvious one. Besides, technical considerations had to be given their due (illustrations in colour had to be restricted to the second volume). We are nonetheless confident that, in the majority of cases, contributions of related interest are neighbours in the volume's topology.

Our thanks go to Friedrich Stadler for co-organising the workshop on Neurath's visual language, to the Austrian Ludwig Wittgenstein Society (ALWS) for its confidence and organisational support, and last but not least to the authors for their participation, enthusiasm, and many inspiring insights.

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