

What is the Axial Age?

**Lecture by Hans Joas, Ersnt-Troelsch-Professor for the
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Time: Wednesday 2
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From 1 pm to 3 pm

Location: TBA

Since the 1970s a term that the German philosopher Karl Jaspers coined in the years after the end of the Second World War has become a hot topic in the historically oriented social sciences. In research and debate Jaspers' claims about a fundamental turning-point in the history of religion between 800 and 200 before Christ have been critically examined and turned into a fruitful research program. This talk gives an overview of these developments and presents the contours of a theory that connects the emergence of ideas about transcendence and moral universalism with the history of the archaic empires.“