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Tradition and politics in Gadamer and Marquard

The talk addresses the political aspects of the positive conceptions of tradition elaborated by Hans-Georg Gadamer and Odo Marquard respectively. With his idea of tradition as anonymous authority, Gadamer seeks to overcome a rigid opposition of reason and history. In doing so, he uses the term "tradition" in three different senses: it is, first, a bundle of classic works; secondly, authority that might be recognized as true; and thirdly, the usual, accepted way of acting and living. Consequently, tradition is understood by Gadamer as an insight, knowledge, practice that is thought to be worth to pass on to later generations. Following Joachim Ritter's inspiration, Odo Marquard elaborates the idea of the inevitability of our usual practices and the "customary", radicalizing thereby on Ritter's and Gadamer's concept. The talk focuses on the political aspects and consequences of these conceptions of tradition.