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Professorship of Romance Literature and Culture with a focus on France

**À la recherche d'une patrie européenne: cent ans de représentation de l'Europe dans la revue
Europe**

**In Search of the European Homeland: One Hundred Years of Images of Europe in Europe, revue
littéraire mensuelle**

10 - 11 November 2023

"À la recherche d'une patrie européenne. Cent ans de représentation de l'Europe dans la revue Europe / In Search of the European Homeland: One Hundred Years of Images of Europe in the magazine Europe" was the title of a conference held on 10 and 11 November at the University of Passau, which brought together more than twenty academics from Germany, Austria, Italy, France, the Netherlands and Canada. The presence of so many international experts was made possible by the support of the Passau International Centre for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies (PICAIIS), the central platform of the University of Passau for academic excellence and interdisciplinary research.

The conference focused on the French literary magazine *Europe*, which will celebrate its centenary in 2023. In times of the general death of magazines, this alone would have been a reason to honour the *Revue Europe*. But for the conference organiser from Passau, Prof. Dr. Marina Ortrud Hertrampf, whose research interests include Romain Rolland and concepts of homeland, the question of the ideas, images and visions of a peacefully united Europe that the *Revue's* authors have sketched out since its inception was much more pivotal.

"The coming years will determine the fate of Europe, to which the fate of humanity is linked. It is urgent that we learn to look higher than the interests, passions and egoisms of individual people and ethnic groups," declared René Acro in the first issue of *Europe, revue littéraire mensuelle*, in February 1923.

One hundred years after the founding of a literary journal that sought to turn the vision of Europe into a living reality, we find ourselves in a very similar situation in the heart of Europe - now politically consolidated by the European Union - at a threshold where the future of the "European homeland" is being decided. In the light of the highly topical nature of the magazine's founding motives, the colloquium aimed to make the strong voices in favour of Europe heard (again). In addition to Romain



Poster of the conference

Rolland, whom Stefan Zweig described as the "conscience of Europe" and who played a key role in the conference as the intellectual patron and co-founder of *Europe*, the lectures also focused on other figures who were emblematic of the Revue in the first decades of its existence, in particular Jean Gu henno, Jules Romains, Pana t Istrati and Elsa Triolet. A synopsis of the intellectual discourses on



Participants during the event

nation-statehood, homeland and Europe that have been developed in the Revue since its inception, each shaped by its historical and political context, revealed sometimes contradictory notions of a European homeland. In the course of the conference, these ideas were brought together in exciting debates against the backdrop of our own time, in which homeland is increasingly understood in national rather than European terms, and entirely new parallels, cross-references and connections were revealed.

This year's international conference is the second to be organised in collaboration with the prestigious Sorbonne University in Paris.

The proceedings of last year's conference, which focused on the pacifist Romain Rolland as a transcultural thinker and writer, were published in time for this year's conference in the academic book series "Romain Rolland Studien", edited by Professor Hertrampf and published by the Akademische Verlagsgemeinschaft M nchen under the title *Romain Rolland: un  crivain mondial*. The proceedings of this year's conference will also be published in 2024.