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JÜRGEN MITTELSTRASS

I am a professor at the University of Constance, one of the younger universities in Southern Germany, where I have taught philosophy since 1970. Since 1990, I have been Director of the Centre for Philosophy of Science at the university.

I was educated in Erlangen, Bonn and Hamburg, where I studied philosophy, classical philology and theology, also attending lectures in German literature, mathematics and physics. After taking my Ph.D. in philosophy in Erlangen in 1961 with a dissertation on the history of a Greek research principle in astronomy, I was a post-doctoral student in Oxford. Before I went to Constance, I spent some time as visiting professor in Philadelphia. From 1997 to 1999 I was President of the German Philosophical Association; a few weeks ago I became President of the *Academia Europaea* (the European Academy of Science).

My main research interests are in epistemology, the history and philosophy of science, the philosophy of mind, as well as, in recent years, in ethics, particularly ethics and the sciences. Within the philosophy of science, I am mainly interested in topics such as theory dynamics, theory structure, and the philosophy of time. My work on the history of science has dealt mostly with the history of physics and astronomy from the Greeks to Newton, in which research Galileo has been a principal focus. I am the editor of an encyclopaedia (*Enzyklopädie Philosophie und Wissenschaftstheorie*) whose four volumes also deal with the history and philosophy of science.

I am greatly honoured to be here, and to have been elected a member of this distinguished Academy; indeed, in all modesty, I am proud to belong to you. A philosopher among scientists – this is no easy thing to be. But I am convinced that we should aim at restoring to science its philosophical core, all while making philosophy more scientific in its methods. And this, as I understand it, is also one of the major aims of the *Pontificia Academia Scientiarum*.