



(How) Is It Possible to Live  
Together?  
On the We-Relationship and  
Collective Life

VIII CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ALFRED SCHUTZ CIRCLE  
FOR PHENOMENOLOGY AND INTERPRETIVE SOCIAL SCIENCE

MARCH 9-11, 2027  
TOYO UNIVERSITY, TOKYO  
THE ALFRED SCHUTZ ARCHIVE IN JAPAN  
[WWW.SCHUTZCIRCLE.ORG](http://WWW.SCHUTZCIRCLE.ORG)



# **(How) Is It Possible to Live Together?**

## **On the We-Relationship and Collective Life**

CALL FOR PAPERS

VIII. Conference of the International Alfred Schutz Circle  
For Phenomenology and Interpretive Social Science

Toyo University, JAPAN  
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How is society possible? This is the question Simmel called the fundamental problem of sociology at the dawn of the discipline. While early phenomenological sociologists sought to answer this question by revealing the “form” of interaction through eidetic intuition, Schutz grasped social order as something already established among ordinary people, discerning how the social world is meaningfully constituted from the perspective of the people living within it. How then do we “always already” live together? How do I recognize others as being like me, yet different from me, orient my own action toward them, and act together? These problem areas have recently regained attention as questions of collective intentionality or as social ontology, and in this context, Schutz provides valuable analysis of the we-relationship, other-orientation, the general thesis of Alter Ego, motivation interconnection, etc.

In our conference, we are going to examine this issue from both philosophical and empirical perspectives. As society becomes increasingly fluid and complex, people have endeavored to appreciate the diversity they share, while challenges for living together grow ever greater. The harms and violence inherent in interacting with others based on the prevailing social norms or common sense

are increasingly being exposed from the perspectives of gender, ethnicity, and cultural diversity. Moreover, the counterparts in interaction today extend beyond human beings, and now encompass animal companions, fictional characters, generative AI, and other posthuman personalities.

We broadly welcome papers addressing the issues surfacing in contemporary societies: the problem of self and other; human groups, membership, structures of organization, collective action; family, partnership, nations; generative AI and technology; immigration, international relations, and war. Contributions exploring what Schutz addressed or could not address, the potential and challenges of phenomenological methodology and other discussions are also welcome.

VIII. Alfred Schutz Circle conference will be held in Tokyo, Japan, a place connected to Schutz through his exchanges with Tomoo Otaka. Toyo University will host the conference in collaboration with the Schutz Archive in Japan, which was established in 1997 and which will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2027. The commemorative event will look back on the history of this center, which has been central to the development of the phenomenological movement in Asia.

The official language of the conference will be English. Paper proposals need not be confined to the main topic of the conference. There will be sessions in addition that are principally open to other topics within the phenomenological and related paradigm. Session proposals are also welcome.

### **Deadline for Abstract**

Please submit an abstract of approximately 500 words in the following form by 30 June 2026. To be considered, all presentation proposals must include your name, affiliation, paper title, five key words, and full contact information including email.

<https://forms.gle/gypNqMwHwFZoHFqN8>

### **Ilse Schutz Prize for Early Career Researchers**

The Ilse Schutz Memorial Prize of \$1000 will be awarded for the best paper presented by a graduate student or faculty member who has not yet reached the

rank of Associate or Full Professor. (Please note that all submissions must be original, unpublished, and not under the review of any other publication).

For more information, see our website [www.schutzcircle.org](http://www.schutzcircle.org).

Those who want to apply for the prize, please send your full paper (up to 8,000 words) to the following address by 30 September 2026:

[schutzcircle@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:schutzcircle@uni-konstanz.de)

(Please make sure that you also send your abstract for the conference participation to the Schutz Circle by the deadline for all abstracts which is 30 June 2026).

### **Registration:**

Registration by payment is necessary for accepted speakers as well as for participants who do not give a presentation. We will send detailed information later to the applicants.

Conference Organizers:

Masato Kimura/ Wataru Kurihara/ Mariko Otsubo/ Yu Mitsuda/

Tepei Sekimizu/ Shingo Torigoe/ Ryohei Kakinuma

In cooperation with The Alfred Schutz Archive in Japan