

Humboldt Kolleg

Hilton Garden Inn Hotel, Doamnei St. 12, Bucharest

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### *Global Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

- 1) *Technological development and human health/ quality of life*
- 2) *Climate change and environmental sustainability*
- 3) *Democracy and cohesion in Europe*

### *Would Condorcet Be a Member of the Pirate Party? The French Enlightenment and the Philosophy, Politics and Economics of Intellectual Property Rights*

While it would be impossible to minimize the impact that the French Enlightenment had in the history of thought, few would think that there could be a way of tracing down the origins of the current philosophical debate regarding Intellectual Property Rights to the 18<sup>th</sup> century Ancien Régime France. The main claim of my talk is that we do, in fact, have a strong reason to change this narrative, especially if we analyze the long-distance debate between Diderot and Condorcet. I will argue that, while Diderot lays down the three main paradigmatic theories in favor of IPRs, Condorcet makes a poignant case against any forms of intellectual privilege like copyrights on consequentialist terms which echo through the centuries to other scholarly or political approaches like the ones of the Pirate Parties.

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