



Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice

Department of Philosophy
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DELLE ECCELLENZE PER LA RICERCA IN ITALIA

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Aula Morelli, Malcanton-
Marcorà h. 4 p.m.

Organizers:

Rodolfo Garau, Ca' Foscari University of
Venice, Department of Philosophy and
Cultural Heritage

Pietro Daniel Omodeo, Ca' Foscari
University of Venice, Department of
Philosophy and Cultural Heritage

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A registration is required. Access requires a
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For informations and registration, please contact
Rodolfo Garau rodolfo.garau@unive.it

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Secunda et adversa fortuna. The Debate in 18th-century German Philosophy and its Cosmological Implications

Paola Rumore
Università di Torino

The talk focuses on a central topic in 18th-century German philosophy, precisely on the role fortune and misfortune play in orienting moral actions, and on their meaning within God's cosmological plan. After a brief presentation of the main conflicting positions in the debate of the time, I will focus on a more specific episode, that is the criticism raised by Georg Friedrich Meier in the early 1750s against Wolff's statements in his ethical and cosmological works. I will argue that their divergent opinions concerning the possibility to consider fortune and misfortune as proper means in God's government of the world, that is as rewards or punishments of human actions, reveal an underestimated divergence in their cosmologies, and marks a step forward in the self-understanding of the Aufklärung, which emerges in Meier's distinction between "thinking as a Weltweiser", or "as a Christian".