

"Right to Have Rights": The Right of Disclosing Oneself Through Action and Speech"

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This talk discusses Hannah Arendt's conception of the "right to have rights", which she proposed in *The Origins of Totalitarianism* to designate the situation of Europe's "stateless" immigrants between the two world wars. Arendt argues that the period's historical and social events demonstrated that "being human" was not enough to secure fundamental human rights. Rights, she observed, were only recognized when a person was a legal member of a political association and that persons without such membership, such as refugees, were deprived of such rights. Therefore, she argues that every individual should have the right to have human rights, which comes prior to being bestowed by 'fundamental rights' by the Universal Human Rights Declaration.

However, this was just one aspect of the problem. Being stateless did not only indicate being deprived of fundamental human rights but also prevented these people from becoming a member of "human togetherness," i.e. living in a human plurality, which for Arendt, is the most fundamental right of human beings. For Arendt, "to be among humans (*inter homines esse*)", as a human condition, constitutes the foundation for action and speech. The prerequisite for a "human" life and the disclosure of the "who" of the one who dwells through actions is the possibility to act and speak as a part of a human community. Therefore, my talk will also examine Arendt's determinations in *The Human Condition* on the action, speech, the public realm, and her notion of "human togetherness" concerning the "right to have rights".

