

SECTION XI: DISCUSSIONS, DEBATES, HISTORICAL CONTROVERSIES

Controversy Around the Lukács Archives

When Georg Lukács (1885-1971), the Hungarian Marxist philosopher and one-time leading figure of the Comintern, died, he put down in his testament for his papers and library to be made available to the public in his Budapest apartment. In early 2016, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, which was responsible for the memorial apartment, decided to close down the site, motivating the decision with the bad condition of the building. This decision sparked a wave of international protest – from prominent scholars like Jürgen Habermas, Axel Honneth, Michael Löwy, and István Mészáros, but also from nearly 10,000 academics and activists who signed a petition for the preservation of the Lukács archives at http://www.petitions24.com/protest_against_closing_down_the_lukacs_archiv. In the meantime, as Rüdiger Dannemann from the International Georg Lukács Society reports in a statement at <http://www.hagalil.com/2016/03/lukacs-archiv-2/>, László Lovász, the President of the Academy of Sciences, announced that while the memorial apartment will be closed, the archive and library will be kept in one piece and will constitute a Lukács Library within the Hungarian Central Library (MTA). Moreover, Lukács' manuscripts and letters will be digitised. Now, it remains to wait whether these promises will be put into practice.