

Arne Schirmacher *

On searching national and scientific identities: Philipp Lenard's early career in Austria-Hungary, Germany and the Anglo-Saxon world

ALTHOUGH BRATISLAVA BORN Philipp Lenard is much more well-known as the archetype of an nationalistic scientist his early career nonetheless identifies him as a scientific internationalist. Educated in Hungarian schools, the universities in Vienna and Budapest Lenard still entertained a certain display of Hungarian identity during his doctoral studies both at Berlin and Heidelberg. Furthermore his plans for careers in England or the United States show a science driven pattern of geographic migrations mostly for reasons of local conflicts.

Based on Lenard's recollections, his private diaries and his notebooks, the talk will discuss the relations of Lenard's geographic migrations and his scientific and ideological resettlements in denouncement of mathematics and theory as well as nationalism and anti-Semitism.

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