

Workshop:
Operationalizing Epistemic Concepts



Aachen, 10 – 13 September 2012

Synopsis

Philosophical explications of central epistemic concepts such as inductive support, explanation, coherence or conditional reasoning can often be effectively guided by experimentation. However, due to their disciplinary background, most philosophers do not have the in-house competence to effectively design such experiments, and to operationalize and measure theoretical concepts. Vice versa, experimental psychologists interested in how people reason are often not aware that longstanding or cutting-edge research in philosophy can have implications for their own research targets, or find it difficult to connect philosophical theories to their own research questions. On the other hand, psychologists are usually equipped with strong theoretical, but also practical knowledge about important strategies and pitfalls when it comes to designing and implementing an experiment.

Therefore we organize this workshop where both fields are brought together, and where the methodology of operationalizing epistemic concepts is investigated both from a theoretical and an empirical point of view. How should we devise elicitation procedures for complex and potentially ambiguous epistemic notions? How should we work out predictions that are precise enough to be put to empirical test? Which experimental paradigms should be adopted in research on human reasoning? How can we connect the philosophical interpretation of epistemic concepts to the long-lasting empirical tradition in psychology?

Organizers: Jan Sprenger (Tilburg University), Vincenzo Crupi (University of Turin), and Henrik Singmann (University of Freiburg)

Keynote Speakers

Vincenzo Crupi (LMU München), Igor Douven (RU Groningen), David Lagnado (UCL), Björn Meder (MPI Berlin), Jonathan Nelson (MPI Berlin)

Program

Tuesday 11.09.

- 09:15 David Lagnado: *Thinking About Causality*
10:30 Mateo Colombo: *Explanatory power and causal explanation*
Commentators:
Leandra Bucher
& Björn Muder
11:45 Henrik Singmann: *Collecting data with free software (I)*
14:15 Gerhard Christopher Bukow: *Minimal rationality in the context of minimal theories of mind*
Commentators:
Matteo Colombo
& Nicole Cruz
15:45 Marc Jekel: *Modeling learning in a parallel constraint satisfaction network model*
Commentators:
Henrik Singmann
& Bernhard Will
17:00 Igor Douven: *The epistemology of conditionals: Formal and empirical approaches*

Wednesday 12.09.

- 09:15 Vincenzo Crupi: *The experimental investigation of confirmation judgments*
- 10:30 Jan Sprenger: *Testing the grammar of explanatory power*
- Commentators:
Vincenzo Crupi
& Mark Jekel
- 11:45 Henrik Singmann: *Analyzing data with free software (II)*
- 14:15 Björn Meder: *The empirical study of human information acquisition*
- 15:45 Jonathan Nelson: *How studying information acquisition can sharpen theoretical understanding*