



# Fachbereich Philosophie

Fachbereichskolloquium  
Sommersemester 2019

18:15 bis 19:45, G 307

Im Rahmen des PHILOSOPHISCHEN KOLLOQUIUMS findet am  
**Donnerstag, 11. Juli**, folgender Vortrag statt:

**James Tappenden**  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

## **Frege, Carl Snell and Romanticism** **Fruitful Concepts and the 'Organic/Mechanical' Distinction**

A surprisingly neglected figure in Frege scholarship is the man Frege describes (with praise that is very rare for Frege) as his "revered teacher", the Jena physics and mathematics professor Carl Snell. There is more of interest to say about Snell than can fit into one talk, so I'll restrict attention here to just this aspect of his thought: the role of the concept of "organic", and a contrast with "mechanical". Snell was a philosophical Romantic, influenced by Schelling and Goethe, and Kant's *Critique of Judgement*. In Frege's environment, the "organic/mechanical" contrast, understood Romantically, was a recognized cliché. More generally, Frege's environment was more saturated with what we now call "Continental philosophy" than we might expect.

This context-setting pays off for our reading of Frege's texts: many turns of phrase that have been regarded as vague, throwaway metaphors turn out to be literal nods to familiar ideas in Frege's environment. In particular, this is true of Frege's account of "extending knowledge" via "fruitful concepts", his appeal to "organic connections", and his rejection of a "mechanical" conception of arithmetic.

Alle Interessierten, insbesondere auch Studierende, sind herzlich eingeladen.

nächster Vortrag: 18. Juli  
Wilson Mendonça, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro  
*Supervenience Arguments against Robust Moral Realism*