



Fachbereich Philosophie

Fachbereichskolloquium

Wintersemester 2022/23

Donnerstags 17 bis 18:30 Uhr

Raum G 307

Im Rahmen des Philosophischen Kolloquiums findet am **Donnerstag, den 15.12.2022** folgender Vortrag statt:

Univ.- Prof. Dr. Katherine Dormandy

Universität Innsbruck

Science Fundamentalism

There is a surge of belief in conspiracy theories and other anti-expert accounts of events. A growing academic literature seeks to explain this in psychological terms, for example as driven by groupthink, anxiety, or a desire for certainty. What contributors to this literature tend to ignore, however, is that belief in expert accounts, often considered “mainstream,” can be similarly epistemically suspect, and subject to similar psychological explanation. Problematic belief-forming tendencies such as bias, groupthink, and anxiety-aversion can arise around belief in expert accounts too, and are well documented in the history of science. This talk explores a form of epistemically problematic belief in expert accounts that I call science fundamentalism. Science fundamentalism, it turns out, strongly resembles belief in anti-expert accounts such as conspiracy theories. One take-home message is that, if we are not careful, the science-friendly among us may focus so much on criticizing those who believe anti-expert accounts that we fail to notice these problematic tendencies among believers of expert accounts. If science is really to be a gold standard for knowledge, we must avoid science fundamentalism and cultivate intellectual humility. We must also learn to trust without being gullible, and to criticize without being cynical.

Alle Interessierten, insbesondere Studierende, sind herzlich eingeladen.

