



Fachbereich Philosophie

Fachbereichskolloquium
Wintersemester 2015/16

18:15 bis 19:45, G 307

Im Rahmen des PHILOSOPHISCHEN KOLLOQUIUMS findet am
Donnerstag, 21. Januar, folgender Vortrag statt:

Prof. Steven French

University of Leeds

Modality in Modern Physics: Between Humeanism and Dispositionalism

Is there any room for modality in modern physics? Famously van Fraassen insisted that 'modality is in the models' and Humeans in general argue that the properties of modern physics should be understood as merely 'occurrent'. However, Humeanism faces well-known difficulties which, following McKenzie, I would argue are exacerbated by modern physics. Dispositionalism, on the other hand, draws on examples from modern physics to support a modally informed 'powers' ontology. This too is problematic, as the nature of properties such as spin and charge does not mesh well with the standard 'stimulus-and-manifestation' characterisation of dispositions.

Nevertheless, there are other devices that one may deploy in order to construct an appropriate modal metaphysics 'fit' for modern physics and here I shall sketch some that I consider to be potentially fruitful in this regard. This will be articulated within the framework advocated by myself and Kerry McKenzie in which we suggest that so-called 'analytic' metaphysics can be regarded as a kind of 'toolbox', to be utilised in other areas of philosophy. I shall conclude with some reflections on the implications of this framework for our conception of the aims and methods of naturalistic metaphysics.

Alle Interessierten, insbesondere auch Studierende, sind herzlich eingeladen.

nächster Vortrag 28.1.

Tobias Henschen, Universität Konstanz

Causality and objectivity in social science and policy

