



Fachbereich Philosophie

Fachbereichskolloquium

Wintersemester 2022/23

Donnerstags 17 bis 18:30 Uhr

Raum G 307

Im Rahmen des Philosophischen Kolloquiums findet am **Donnerstag, den 09.02.2023** folgender Vortrag statt:

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Possibilities for Action

It is usually assumed that there is a class of ability modals, interpretations of 'can' or 'able' on which sentences of the form 'S can/is able to phi' ascribe an ability to S. A central discussion is then whether such ability modals are simple possibility modals or some kind of complex modal combining necessity and possibility like elements. In this talk, I explore what I take to be a promising alternative: whether sentences of the form 'S can phi' ascribe abilities is not determined entirely by the interpretation of the modal, but depends in large parts on the interpretation of its prejacent. Only when 'phi' is interpreted as an action, does 'S can phi' ascribe ability. On this view, we can defend the idea that ability modals denote possibilities against standard objections, while distinguishing abilities from other circumstantial possibilities in what they are possibilities for. In a slogan: abilities are possibilities for action.

Alle Interessierten, insbesondere Studierende, sind herzlich eingeladen.

