

Agents' Abilities and Options for Action

September 2 – 3, 2021, University of Konstanz, Tagungsraum auf K 7

Thomas Müller, Jacob Rosenthal

What exactly does it mean that an agent A in circumstances C has the ability, option, or possibility to φ in C ? What does it mean that she can or is able to perform this action in this situation? Ascriptions of abilities, options, or possibilities to act are perfectly common, but hard to understand in their presuppositions and implications. They lie at the very basis of action theory, and thus, in particular, of decision theory and the free will debate. The conference will discuss different approaches to these kinds of ascriptions, the relations between them and several topics surrounding them.

Thursday, September 2

9:30 – 10:45 Hans Briegel (Universität Innsbruck) and Thomas Müller (Universität Konstanz): *On the Role of Learning for Agency*

11:00 – 12:15 Jan Broersen (Utrecht University): *What is in Between Real Possibility to Act and General Ability?*

Lunch Break

13:45 – 15:00 Romy Jaster (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin): *Abilities – Modality, Generic Options, and Back*

15:15 – 16:30 John Maier (Massachusetts Institute of Psychoanalysis): *Options and Imprecision*

16:45 – 18:00 Ferenc Huoranszki (Central European University): *Rational Capacities, Contingency and Real Options*

20:00 Dinner in Town (Wessenberg, Wessenbergstraße 41 am Münsterplatz)

Friday, September 3

9:30 – 10:45 Jacob Rosenthal (Universität Konstanz): *Conditional Analyses of Options for Action – A (Partial) Defence*

11:00 – 12:15 Maria Sekatskaya (Universität Düsseldorf): *Supervenient Fixity and Agential Possibilities*

Lunch Break

13:45 – 15:00 Geert Keil (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin): *Which of the Agent's Options Does the Late Intervener Leave Open?*

15:15 – 16:30 General Discussion

19:00 Dinner in Town (L'Osteria, Reichenaustraße 15 am Seerhein)

Saturday, September 4

Recreational Hike