

The Analogy of Being

workshop in Ligerz, February 28, 2018 (evening) – March 4 2018 (noon)

As part of its [Swiss Doctoral Programme in Philosophy](#), the Centre for the Philosophy and Theology of Being at the University of Lucerne: *οὐσία*, is organising a small and informal workshop in beautiful Ligerz.

For all questions and inquiries, please write to the workshop organiser, philipp.blum@philosophie.ch.

CfP. In what sense do we predicate “exists” of people, chairs, God, numbers and fictional creatures? What senses of being does Aristotle distinguish in *Met.* Lambda? How are they related? Are some prior to others? How, if at all, do these ancient and medieval distinctions of being and other transcendentals match up with contemporary talk about ‘degrees’ or ‘modes’ of being? Related questions concern the distinction between abstract and concrete and between causally interacting and merely ‘intentional’ objects – do they too exist in fundamentally different ways? Of particular interest is the distinction – if, indeed, there is one at all – between (what are now called) the “is” of predication and the “is” of existence, a distinction which received a lot of critical discussion by Brentano and in the reist tradition. A related, but also independent, interesting and under-researched question concerns the relation between ‘ordinary’ property exemplification and its modalised forms: is there, in addition to the “is” of predication, an “is” of essence, of necessity, of futurity? Can we understand “is necessarily”, “is essentially”, “was” and “will be” as separate forms of copulae, in analogy to the syllogistic distinction between a-, o-, i- and e-predications, or are they, as is nowadays normally assumed, higher-order modifications of one basic a-modal and a-temporal “is”?

Participants. Participants should arrive by Sunday evening and stay at least until Thursday noon. They should commit to have a first draft / extended abstract of their paper ready by 1st of September, read at least some of those of the others in advance and make an effort at reading some of the other material suggested by the other participants. They should commit to staying in Ligerz for the whole duration of the conference, except of course for the joint excursions to the regions’ vineyards and the shores of the lake of Biel/Bienne.

Location. The conference takes place in the beautifully located bilingual village of Ligerz / Gléresse, on the shores of the lake of Biel/Bienne (also bilingual):



Talks and meals are at the Aarbergerhaus, where a beamer and facilities to print out handouts are available. Participants stay at the so-called “Louis Haus”, where there’s also a small bar for late-night drinks.

When you get out of the train arriving either from Neuchâtel or from Biel/Bienne, and you face the mountain and the church (turning your back to the lake), the Aarbergerhaus is to your right (in the direction of Biel), about 150 m along the main road. You reach it after passing by the hotel “Kreuz” and by going through a garden door located at your left (facing Biel), just before there is a street for cars on your right going over a small bridge (in the direction of the lake). Please come there when you arrive. (The Louis-Haus, in contrast, is to your left, about 50m through the pedestrian street, on your right just before the fountain).

Programme:

Thurs, 9-10.30 Philipp Blum, Essence and Existence

Thurs, 10.45-11.45 discussion: Senses of Being and of “to be”, animated by Niels Tolkiehn

Thurs, 13.30-15 Nurbay Irmak, The Problem of Creation and Abstract Artifacts

Suggested reading: draft on dropbox

Thurs, 15.15-16.45 Nathan Davies, Meta-Ontological Expressivism and Ontological Commitment

Suggested reading: abstract on dropbox

Thurs, 17-18 discussion: Truth and Being in Antiquity, animated by Beatrice Michetti

Fri, 9-10.30 Damiano Costa / Kevin Mulligan, The connective view of temporal existence

Suggested reading: draft on dropbox

Fri, 10.45-11.45 discussion: Existence and Location, animated by Philipp Blum

Fri, 13.30-15 Daniele Garancini, Can distinctness be defined in Quantum Mechanics?

Suggested reading: draft on dropbox

Fri, 15.04 departure of the “vinifuni” to Prêles

Sat, 9-10.30 Beatrice Michetti, The verb ‘to be’ and the concept of Being: an ontological interpretation of Plato’s Sophist

Suggested reading: draft on dropbox

Sat, 10.45-11.45 discussion: McDaniel’s Fragmentation of Being, animated by Damiano Costa

Sat, 13.30-15 Niels Tolkiehn, Is there existence in Aristotle?

Suggested reading: draft on dropbox

Sat, 15.15-16.45 Philipp Blum, The Fragmentation of Being, and Aristotle

Sat, 17-18 discussion: Zalta’s abstract objects, animated by Nurbay Irmak

Sun, 9-10.30 Philipp Blum, Transcendentals as logical constants

Sun, 10.45-11.45 wrap-up discussion