

Aristotle on Grounding, Definition, Explanation, Essence

workshop in Ligerz, Wednesday 11 September (evening) – Sunday, 15 September (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. Consult the [website](#) for additional information or contact the workshop organiser, [Philipp Blum](#).

CfP. In his *Posterior Analytics*, Aristotle sketches a template that profoundly shaped what we today mean by “science”. In this workshop, we will examine that template, question it and relate it to the contemporary concerns of metaphysicians interested in grounding and causation. Of particular importance will be the generally acknowledged, but misunderstood fact that Aristotle has not one concept of causation, but distinguishes between at least four. This opens up interesting avenues of research, in particular with respect to the nowadays very controversially discussed question whether grounding is causation (or whether perhaps causation is grounding). Similarly, while Aristotle’s explanation-based notion of essence has received quite a lot of attention by neo-Aristotelians, the connection to the notion of definition is still undertheorised, esp. in relation to recent attempts at defining real definitions.

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 when you are at the station, about 50m through the pedestrian street, on your right just before the fountain).

Please note. While towels and bed-sheet are provided, for some reason shampoo and shower cream are not (though there is soap). If you need these, bring them along.

Arrival. It would be good if participants arrive at the Aarbergerhaus by **Wednesday, 11th of September, 19.00** for dinner. If you arrive late, please let me know. Ligerz is mid-way between Biel/Bienne and Neuchâtel and reachable

by train in 1h43 from Zurich Airport, in 1h50 from Geneva Airport and in 1h55 from Basel EuroAirport (cf. www.sbb.ch – no need to plan in too much time, Swiss trains are never late and all three airports are reasonably small).

Reimbursement. Please buy your tickets yourself; you can also buy in advance the train tickets you need (they are valid for a whole day) and have them sent to you by email. Please see to it that you have pdfs or scan-able documents for all your expenses.

There are two paper boards, and a beamer for ppt presentations (bring an adapter); there is also an opportunity to make last-minute print-outs or photocopies.

Discussion sessions. Discussion sessions should be introduced by the moderator (5-25 min.) and then also chaired by that person. They may focus on a recent article or discussion (not necessarily written by the moderator or any of the other participants) or on a specific question of interest to the moderator (and, hopefully, the audience).

Reading material. It would be good if as much as possible of the reading material could be made available to participants in advance (via a dropbox folder, for which I have hopefully sent you an invitation). This includes (i) abstracts / drafts; (ii) background reading, e.g. articles by others specifically discussed or older texts not easily available.

Programme:

Thu, 9-10.30 Philipp Blum, Two Types of Grounding?

Thu, 10.45-12.15 Boris Hennig, *Posterior Analytics* II.11

Thu, 14-15.30 Petter Sandstad, Grounding and Aristotle's *Posterior Analytics*

Thu, 15.45-17.15 H el ene Leblanc, Sign and Language in Anton Marty: before and after Brentano

Thu, 19.00 dinner

Fri, 9.15-10.45 Christian Weibel, *Logos* in *De Anima*: an approach to Aristotle's account of soul

Fri, 11-12.15 discussion session 1: Th eories scolastiques du signe (1250-1650) (animated by HL)

Fri, 13.45-15.15 Liva Rotkale, The Principle of Sufficient Reason in Aristotle's Arguments for the Unmoved Mover in *Met. A* 6-7

Fri, 15.30-17 Philipp Blum, Relational Intentionality in Aristotle

Fri, 19.00 dinner

Sat, 9-10-30 discussion session 2: The Four Causes (animated by BH)

Sat, 10.45-12.15 discussion session 3: Charles on Essence in Aristotle (animated by PB)

Sat, 14.15-15.45 Philipp Blum, (Aristotelian) Essences and Real Definitions

Sat, 16.04 departure of the cable car to Pr eles

Sat, 19.00 dinner

Sun, 9-10.30 discussion session 5: Corkum on Grounding and Dependence in Aristotle (animated by PS)

Sun, 10.45-12 wrap-up discussion

Proposal for 'free' time. On Saturday afternoon, we could either take the cable-car up to Pr eles, have a drink there and take a (quite leisurely) walk back down to Ligerz (passing by the beautiful church); the gourmet restaurant where we have dinner is located on our way down.

Costs. The costs of simple accommodation and food will be covered. In principle, participants should be prepared to pay for their own drinks (excl. coffee and tea), though some of this might be covered as well.