

The Future of Swiss Philosophy

workshop in Ligerz, 10th to 14th of September, 2017

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.

Aim. In recent years, philosophy in Switzerland has known an unprecedented flourishing: many new research groups have been established, many new people have been recruited and whole new programmes have sprung up. As an unavoidable side-effect, it has become more difficult to stay informed about everything going on philosophically in Switzerland, and to personally know the people involved. As a first step towards greater integration of Swiss philosophy, *ousia*, with the help of *dialectica*, organises a get-together of Swiss philosophers (“Swiss” in the SNSF, not the passport sense) within the Doctoral Programme in Philosophy 2017–2020, funded by *swissuniversities*.

The idea is to get together a number of Swiss philosophers, have talks on work in progress (even very much in progress) or bigger projects (thesis / habilitation / book), but also quite a lot of smaller discussion sessions, on specific questions / topics / disputes, briefly introduced by one of the participants.

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).

Mon, 9-10.15 Julien Dutant, A New Epistemic Logic

Suggested reading: cf. dropbox

Mon, 10.30-11.45 Claudio Calosi, Determinable-Determinates, Indeterminacy and Location

Suggested reading:

- draft on dropbox (“calos11.pdf”)
- Wilson, Jessica M., 2017. “Determinables and Determinates”. in Zalta, Edward N. (editor) *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Stanford, California: The Metaphysics Research Lab, Center for the Study of Language and Information. Version of February 7, 2017
- Parsons, Josh, 2007. “Theories of Location”. in Zimmerman, Dean W. (editor) *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, volume III, pp. 2001–232. Oxford: Clarendon Press

Mon, 12-13 discussion on epistemic dependence (animated by Julien Dutant)

Suggested reading: cf. dropbox

Mon, 14-15.15 Robert Michels, Multi-Dimensional Vagueness and Formal Concepts

Suggested reading: cf. dropbox

Mon, 15.30-16.45 Philipp Blum, ‘Reactive’ Epistemology

(Possible, but not suggested) reading. Cf. dropbox (epistemology book project)

Mon, 17-18 discussion: (some) main problems in epistemology today

Tues, 9-10.15 Philipp Schwind, Do psychological defeaters undermine moral foundationalism? A rejoinder to Sinnott-Armstrong

Suggested reading: cf. dropbox

Tues, 10.30-11.45 David Wörner, The Importance of Language for Locke’s Theory of Ideas

(Possible, but not suggested) reading. Cf. David’s thesis (on dropbox).

Tues, 12-13 (some) main problems in (meta-)ethics today

Wed, 9-10.15 Sanna Hirvonen, The Time-Lag Argument, Presentism and Direct Realism about Perception

Suggested reading: Cf. dropbox.

Wed, 10.30-11.30 Ghislain Guigon, Parts of Ockham’s razor and their counterparts

Draft paper: Cf. dropbox.

Wed, 11.45-12.45 discussion “The Bound State Answer to the Special Composition Question”, animated by Claudio Calosi.

Suggested reading:

- draft on dropbox (“calos12.pdf”)
- McKenzie, Kerry & F.A. Muller, 2017. “Bound States and the Special Composition Question”. in Massimi, Michaela, Jan-Willem Romeijn & Gerhard Schurz (editors) *EPSA 15 – Selected Papers. The 5th conference of the European Philosophy of Science Association in Düsseldorf*, pp. 233–242. number 5 in *European Studies in Philosophy of Science*, Cham: Springer
- van Inwagen, Peter, 1987. “When are Objects Parts?” in Tomberlin, James E. (editor) *Philosophical Perspectives 1: Metaphysics*, pp. 21–47. Oxford: Basil Blackwell Publishers

Wed, 13.45-14.45 Sebastian Muders, Human Dignity – final, inherent, absolute?

Suggested reading: Cf. dropbox.

Wed, 14.45-15.30 Philipp Blum, The Skeptic and the Stoic

Suggested reading: Cf. dropbox.

Wed, 15.45-17 Cyrill Mamin, Nonconceptual reasons

Suggested reading:

- draft paper, cf. dropbox
- Brewer, Bill, 1999. *Perception and Reason*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, ch. 5
- McDowell, John Henry, 1996. *Mind and World*. 2 edition. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. With a new introduction by the author, lecture 3 (+ introduction, postscript Lecture III)

Wed, 17.15-18.15 discussion: (some) main problems in the philosophy of mind today

Thurs, 9-10.15 Riccardo Baratella, On the Identification of Material Objects with Events

Suggested reading:

- Bennett, Jonathan, 2002. “What Events Are”. in Gale, Richard M. (editor) *The Blackwell Guide to Metaphysics*, pp. 43–65. Blackwell Philosophy Guides, Oxford: Basil Blackwell Publishers
- Kim, Jaegwon, 1991. “Events: Their Metaphysics and Semantics”. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 51(3): 641–646

- Kim, Jaegwon, 1976. “Events as Property Exemplifications”. in Brand, Myles & Douglas N. Walton (editors) *Action Theory: Proceedings of the Winnipeg Conference On Human Action, held at Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, 9-11 May 1975*, pp. 159–178. number 97 in Synthese Library, Dordrecht: D. Reidel Publishing Co. Reprinted in ? : 33–52

Thurs, 10.30-11.30 discussion on Locke, essence and relative identity, animated by David Wörner.

Suggested reading: Wiggins, David, 2001. *Sameness and Substance Renewed*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, ch. 1

Thurs, 11.45-12.45 discussion: (some) main problems in metaphysics today