

## Being – its senses, types, modes and degrees

workshop in Ligerz, 12th to 16th of October, 2016

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](mailto:philipp.blum@philosophie.ch).

**CfP.** For its inaugural conference, *ousia*, the new Centre for the Philosophy and Theology of Being at the Theological Faculty of the University of Lucerne (Switzerland), organises a four-day conference on the nature of being, its degrees, modes and senses, welcoming approaches both from systematical and historical perspectives. The conference will take place in beautiful Ligerz, on the shores of the lake of Bienna. Prospective participants are asked to submit an abstract, suitable for blind refereeing, to [philipp.blum@philosophie.ch](mailto:philipp.blum@philosophie.ch), by the 25th of September. The costs of simple accommodation, and food will be covered. If participants do not have any other means of covering travel costs, these may be subsidised too. When submitting the abstract, please state in the body of the email whether you would like to apply for travel subsidies (and for how much).

**Participants.** Participants should arrive by Wednesday evening and stay at least until Sunday noon. They should commit to have a first draft / extended abstract of their paper ready by 23th of April, 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).

**Program:**

**Thurs, 9-10.30** Philipp Blum, A survey of possible themes for *ousia*.

**Suggested reading:** *Ousia* 'battle plan' on dropbox.

**Thurs, 10.45-11.45** Defining Physicalism, 'animated' by Philipp Blum.

**Thurs, 12-13** Extrinsic Entities, 'animated' by Philipp Blum.

**Thurs, 14-15.30** Sébastien Richard, "Two Kinds of Existential Pluralism – Meinong and Ingarden"

**Abstract.** Cf. dropbox.

**Thurs, 15.45-17.15** Ralf Bader, "Real predicates and existential judgements"

**Abstract.** Cf. dropbox.

**Suggested reading:** Proops, Ian, 2015. "Kant on the Ontological Argument". *Noûs* 49(1): 1–27.

Stang, Nicholas F., 2015. "Kant's Argument that Existence is Not a Determination". *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 91(3): 583–626.

**Thurs, 17.30-18.30** Philipp Blum, "Kantian appearances as aspects".

**Suggested reading:** Cf. dropbox.

**Fri, 9-10.30** Stephan Leuenberger, Totality: Ontology versus Ideology.

**Abstract.** Cf. dropbox.

**Suggested reading:** Leuenberger, Stephan, 2008. "Ceteris Absentibus Physicalism". Zimmerman, Dean W. (ed.) *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, IV, 145–170. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Leuenberger, Stephan, 2014. "Total logic". *The Review of Symbolic Logic* 7(3): 529–547.

**Fri, 10.45-12.15** Bruno Whittle, Ontological pluralism and notational variance.

**Abstract.** Cf. dropbox.

**Fri, 13.30-15** Javier Cumpa, Ontology and Structure: An Eliminativist Approach

**Abstract.** Cf. dropbox.

**Suggested reading:** Sider, Theodore, 2011. *Writing the Book of the World*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

**Sat, 9-10.30** Round table: does reality bottom out? (Stephan Leuenberger, Bruno Whittle, Christian Wüthrich, Philipp Blum)

**Abstract.** Cf. dropbox.

**Suggested reading:** Rabin, Gabriel Oak & Brian Rabern, 2016. "Well Founding Grounding Grounding". *The Journal of Philosophical Logic* 45(4): 349–379.

Scott Dixon, Thomas, 2016. "What is the Well-Foundedness of Grounding?" *Mind* 125(498): 439–468.

**Sat, 10.45-11.45** Substances versus facts, 'animated' by Javi Cumpa.

**Sat, 12-13** free OR Sinergia administrative meeting (for those interested).

**Sat, 14-15.30** Catharine Diel, Restoring Worlds with Domains.

**Abstract.** Cf. dropbox.

**Suggested reading:** Ketland, Jeffrey, undated. "Worlds Without Domain". Unpublished manuscript.

**Sat, 15.45-16.45** Qualitativism, 'animated' by Catharine Diel

**Abstract.** TBA.

**Suggested reading:** Dasgupta, Shamik, 2009. "Individuals: an Essay in Revisionary Metaphysics". *Philosophical Studies* 145(1): 35–67.

Turner, Jason, 2017. "Can We Do without Fundamental Individuals? No." *Barnes* (2017), 24–34.

Dasgupta, Shamik, 2017. "Can We Do without Fundamental Individuals? Yes." *Barnes* (2017), 7–23.

In addition to those two texts, Dasgupta has a short piece called "Quality and Structure" and he and Turner have a discussion in these issues at the end of the book that could fit into the discussion.

**Sat, 17-18** The Two Senses Theory of Existence, 'animated' by Philipp Blum.

**Sun, 9-10.30** Alex Skiles, "Existence, Intrinsicity, and Fundamentality".

**Sun, 10.45-11.45** The distinction between positive and negative, 'animated' by Stephan Leuenberger.

**Abstract.** There are two conceptions of a positive fact. One is that it's a fact that remains true if one adds to the world (roughly, the Chalmers conception). Another conception is that it's a fact such that by metaphysical default, its negation holds. Now if non-being is always the metaphysical default, the two conceptions will extensionally coincide. It does seem to me that non-being is often the metaphysical default. (Presence requires explanation, absence does not.) But I'm interested in whether this has to be so, and whether there are other plausible notions of metaphysical default.

**Sun, 12-13** Summing-up.