

The Nature of Existence

workshop in Ligerz, 8th to 12th of November, 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.

CfP. In what sense do we predicate “exists” of people, chairs, God, numbers and fictional creatures? Is “exists” said in many ways and if so, what are they? How are they related? Is existence a predicate, a copula, a quantifier or perhaps all of these? Is existence “absolute positioning”? How is it related to truth and to metaphysical modality? Organised by *ousia*, the newly established centre for the philosophy and theology of Being at the University of Lucerne, Switzerland, this small and informal workshop in beautiful Ligerz should shed light on these and related question, in particular against the background of analytic history of philosophy.

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).

Programme details:

Thurs, 9-10.30 Ralf Bader, Kant's Theory of Modality – overview

Suggested reading: KrV, B99-101, B265-294, B620-630; Beweisgrund: AA 2:70-83

Thurs, 10.45-11.45 discussion: the logical modalities (animated by Ralf Bader)

Suggested reading: book manuscript, "bader.pdf", 1st part

Thurs, 14-15 discussion: the real modalities (animated by Ralf Bader)

Suggested reading: book manuscript, "bader.pdf", 2nd part

Thurs, 15.15-16.15 discussion: cognising modality (animated by Ralf Bader)

Suggested reading: book manuscript, "bader.pdf", 3rd part

Thurs, 16.30-17.30 discussion: the Kantian copula (animated by Philipp Blum)

Suggested reading: TBA

Fri, 9-10.30 Martin Grajner, Existential Quantification and Ontological Commitment

Suggested reading:

- abstract in the dropbox folder
- Fine, Kit, 2009. "The Question of Ontology". in Chalmers, David J., David Manley & Ryan Wasserman (editors) *Metametaphysics. New Essays on the Foundations of Ontology*, pp. 157-177. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Fri, 10.45-11.45 discussion: ontological commitment in natural language (animated by Joe Gough)

Suggested reading: TBA

Fri, 14-15.30 John Horden, 'Nothing Over and Above': A Slippery Phrase Explained

Suggested reading:

- handout in the dropbox folder
- Smid, Jeroen, 2017. "What does "nothing over and above its parts" actually mean?" *Philosophy Compass* 12(1)

Fri, 15.45-16.45 Philipp Blum, Why There Is Something Rather Than Nothing

Suggested reading: TBA

Fri, 17-18 Donnadh O'Conaill, What it is to *F*

Suggested reading: cf. dropbox

Sat, 9-10.30 Tina Röck, Becoming existence – Arguing for dynamic ontologies of immanence

Suggested reading:

- for some background on process philosophies: Seibt, Johanna, 2012. "Process Philosophy". 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 October 15, 2012
- cf. also the abstract in the dropbox folder

Sat, 10.45-11.45 discussion: how processes are in time (animated by Philipp Blum)

Suggested reading: TBA

Sat, 14-15.30 Mario Schärli, Frege on Existence and Number

Suggested reading: TBA

Sun, 9-10.30 Philipp Blum, Is Being Said in Many Ways?

Suggested reading: TBA

Sun, 10.45-11.45 discussion on Kris McDaniel's *Fragmentation of Being* (animated by Nathan Davies)

Suggested reading: McDaniel, Kris, 2017. *The Fragmentation of Being*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (draft version on dropbox folder)