Call for Abstracts

Workshop for PhD students: Rationality and Normativity

28th- 29th June 2016

Deadline: 27th March

What does it mean to take rational decisions? Modern decision theory has developed methods to determine the course of action which maximizes the (expected) utility for an agent, given her preferences and beliefs. An agent is said to decide rationally if her preferences conform to the axioms of decision theory, and if she chooses the option which promises to maximize her utility. Axioms such as completeness and transitivity are intended as rational requirements of coherence for preferences. Can thus the normativity of rational choice theory be grounded in the normativity of coherence? And why should coherence be normative?

The workshop aims to investigate which insights can be gained from the debate around the normativity of coherence for the question of the normativity of decision theory. The main focus is:

The concept of coherence: Do the axioms of decision theory adequately capture the concept of coherence?

The normativity of coherence: Can the normativity of decision theory be justified by recourse to coherence? Why should the beliefs and intentions of a rational agent be coherent?

Invited speakers: Sven Ove Hansson (Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden) and **Hans Rott** (University of Regensburg, Germany).

Call for Abstracts:

We invite applications for presentations by PhD students. They should be suited for presentations of 20 min, followed by a discussion.

Please send abstracts of no more than 200 words, together with a short statement indicating your affiliation and the topic of your research (max. 70 words) to tanja.rechnitzer@philo.unibe.ch until 27th March 2016. Full papers will be due by 1st June.

The workshop is sponsored by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF). For graduate students from Swiss universities, travel and catering bursaries are available. International participants are also very welcome, but unfortunately we cannot provide financial support.

Venue: University of Bern, Switzerland.

Organizers: Tanja Rechnitzer, Michael Messerli and Annabel Colas.

In case of any questions, please contact tanja.rechnitzer@philo.unibe.ch.