



GAP8 / Workshop 6 / September 20-22, 2012

The Scope and Limits of Experimental Ethics

Motivated by the new interest in experimental methods in philosophy which has been sparked by US-American colleagues like Joshua Knobe and Joshua Greene, we discuss and explore the scope of experimental methods in the scientific investigation of ethical problems in this workshop. The workshop features contributions from a broad range of disciplines whose target questions are of philosophical relevance. Besides our focus on ethical questions we also discuss contributions which investigate problems from other philosophical fields experimentally or are otherwise empirically informed ventures into philosophical territory. Additionally, we dedicate one session exclusively to philosophical contributions which critically discuss the role of experimental methods in philosophy in general.

Organizers: Christoph Lütge (luetge@tum.de)
Hannes Rusch (hr@tum.de)

Information on travel and location can be found on the gap8 website: www.gap8.de

The workshop's location is “Raum/Room C 424” at Konstanz University, level C4.

The GAP8 workshop office is located at “Raum/Room C 426”. Workshop participants will receive their name badges and an additional conference brochure with comprehensive information there.

Workshop Program

All presentations are 30-35 min. followed by 10-15 min. of discussion.

	Thursday	<i>In Medias Res</i>		Chairing
T1	1700-1730	Welcome & Introduction	Christoph Lütge (TU München)	
T2	1730-1815	The Attribution of Externalities – An Economic Approach to the Knobe Effect	Verena Utikal (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)	H. Rusch
T3	1815-1845	Opening Discussion		C. Lütge
	2030	<i>Informal Get-together, starting at Brauhaus Joh. Albrecht Inselgasse 17, 78462 Konstanz</i>		



Friday		<i>Applied Experimental Ethics 1</i>		Chairing
F1	0900-0945	Paternalism with Hindsight	Matthias Uhl (TU München)	V. Utikal
F2	0945-1030	Environmental Ethics – Value Assignments in the Protection of Species and the Problem of Reliably Measuring such Value Assignments	Ulrich Frey (JLU Giessen)	J. Rosenthal
	30 Min	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
<i>Applied Experimental Ethics 2</i>				
F3	1100-1145	Choosing Inequality – An Experimental Analysis of the Impact of Social Immobility on the Democratic Election of Distributive Rules	Stephan Wolf (ALU Freiburg) Alexander Lenger (GU Frankfurt)	E. Di Nucci
F4	1145-1230	Smile! Ethical Motivations of Microcredit Lenders?	Hannes Rusch & Christoph Lütge (TU München)	M. Uhl
	60 Min	<i>Lunch at 'Bistro Arche', level K4</i>		
<i>On Methodology</i>				
F5	1330-1415	Robust Intuitions and Experimental Ethics: Bringing Reflective Equilibrium to the Lab	Fernando Aguiar (IESA-CSIC Cordoba) Antonio Gaitán (UC3 Madrid) Blanca Rodríguez (UC Madrid)	A. Tanyi
F6	1415-1500	The Scope of Behavioral Business Ethics – Preliminary Results from Semi Structured Interviews	Alexander Lenger (GU Frankfurt) Stephan Wolf (ALU Freiburg)	V. Wagner
	30 Min	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
<i>Improving Experimental Philosophy 1</i>				
F7	1530-1615	Overdemanding Consequentialism? An Experimental Approach	Attila Tanyi & Martin Bruder (Uni Konstanz)	A. Grimes
F8	1615-1700	The Trolley Problem and the Self- Sacrifice Trilemma	Ezio Di Nucci (Uni Duisburg- Essen)	U. Frey
	15 Min	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
F9	1715-1800	Explaining the Knobe Effect	Verena Wagner (Uni Regensburg)	B. Huppert
	1930-open	<i>Dinner at Seerhein Konstanz Spanierstrasse 3, 78467 Konstanz</i>		



Saturday		<i>Improving Experimental Philosophy 2</i>		Chairing
S1	0830-0915	Mapping the Folk Concept of Intentionality: Contexts and Explanations of Intentionality Ascriptions	Andreas Bunge & A. Skulmowski (Uni Osnabrück)	S. Wolf
S2	0915-1000	Debunking Arguments and the Psychology of Moral Relevance	Benjamin Huppert (Uni Bayreuth)	S. Thürmel
	30 Min	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
<i>Critical Reflections & Discussion</i>				
S3	1030-1115	On the Link between Empirical Science and Moral Epistemology	Nikil Mukerji (TU München)	J. Jauernig
S4	1115-1200	Experimental Philosophy is Useful – But not in a Specific Way	Jacob Rosenthal (RFWU Bonn)	M. Bruder
	1200-1230	Discussion on Scope and Limits of Experimental Ethics		C. Lütge
	60 Min	<i>Lunch at ‘Bistro Arche’, level K4</i>		
<i>Interdisciplinary Brides</i>				
S5	1330-1415	Moral Tradeoffs through the Lens of Ecological Perception	Andre Grimes (Uni / MPI Jena)	H. Rusch
S6	1415-1500	Experimental Ethics and Multi-Agent Systems	Sabine Thürmel (TU München)	N. Mukerji
	1500	<i>Goodbye</i>		



Thursday, September 20, 2012

T2 1730-1815	The Attribution of Externalities – An Economic Approach to the Knobe Effect	Verena Utikal (FAU Erlangen- Nürnberg)
-------------------------------	--	---

A series of vignettes studies in experimental philosophy have revealed that people blame others for foreseen negative side effects but do not praise them for foreseen positive ones. In order to challenge this idea, (called the Knobe effect), we develop a laboratory experiment using monetary incentives. In a game-theoretic framework we formalize the vignettes in a neutral way. Thus, we abstain from the use of any specific language terms and can easily control and vary the economic parameters of the situation. We confirm the Knobe effect in one situation and present situations in which the effect vanishes or even reverses.

Prof. Dr. Verena Utikal

verena.utikal@wiso.uni-erlangen.de
www.behavioraleconomics.rw.uni-erlangen.de

Junior Professor of Behavioral Economics
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
Lange Gasse 20
D-90403 Nürnberg

Friday, September 21, 2012

F1 0900-0945	Paternalism With Hindsight	Matthias Uhl (TU München)
-------------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------------------

We experimentally test protégés reciprocal behavior towards a paternalist. We found that protégés value freedom of choice and that a paternalist will be reciprocated with punishment. The protégés reciprocal behavior is, however, not based on principled grounds. If protégés find out that the paternalistic restriction made them worse off, they will punish the paternalist. If, however, with hindsight the paternalistic restriction turns out to make the protégé better off, protégés do not punish the paternalist while some even reward her. Our result partly supports the paternalistic tenet “You will not understand it now, but you will thank us later”.

Dr. Matthias Uhl

m.uhl@tum.de
<http://www.wirtschaftsethik.edu.tum.de/team/uhl/>

Peter Löscher Chair of Business Ethics
TU München
Lothstraße 17
D-80335 München



F2 0945-1030	Environmental Ethics – Value Assignments in the Protection of Species and the Problem of Reliably Measuring such Value Assignments	Ulrich Frey (JLU Giessen)
-------------------------------	--	--

Environmental values are accepted both by the majority globally and in Germany. However, often this positive attitude does not result in positive actions. Why? Perhaps one reason is that we do not know which values exactly are at the core of environmental actions or inactions. To answer this question, participants in a survey have to rank 12 animal species to indicate their value. Every animal has different reasons for protecting it. These values allow to answer the question if animals are treated like they possess an intrinsic value or whether they are valuable only in regard to human needs. A follow-up question is: how may this be measured reliably?

Dr. Ulrich Frey Ulrich.frey@uni-giessen.de http://www.uni-giessen.de/cms/fbz/zentren/philosophie/ZfP/mitarbeiter/frey	Zentrum für Philosophie und Grundlagen der Wissenschaft Justus Liebig Universität Gießen Rathenaustraße 8 D-35394 Gießen
--	---

F3 1100-1145	Choosing Inequality – An Experimental Analysis of the Impact of Social Immobility on the Democratic Election of Distributive Rules	Stephan Wolf (ALU Freiburg) Alexander Lenger (GU Frankfurt)
-------------------------------	--	--

Mainstream economists usually identify a fundamental conflict between efficiency and justice in resource allocation: markets are generally considered an efficient allocation tool, but create unequal results. Corresponding governmental redistribution shall equalize some of these market results, but leads to inefficiency due to disincentives both for net payers and net receivers. Consequently, this paper analyses the impact of social inequality on distributive choices in an experimental democracy. In our experiment, we find that stark inequality is generally accepted provided a strong egalitarian income floor is ensured. Unconditional equality was never – despite the egalitarian preferences of our samples – a stable outcome.

Stephan Wolf, M.A. stephan.wolf@vwl.uni-freiburg.de http://www.wipo.uni-freiburg.de/teamfolderLSNE/wolfs	Department for Economic Policy and Constitutional Economic Theory, University of Freiburg Fahnenbergplatz, D-79085 Freiburg
Dipl.-Vw. Alexander Lenger, M.A. lenger@em.uni-frankfurt.de http://www.global-studies.de/people/lenger	Business Ethics Department, Campus Westend Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main Grüneburgplatz 1, 60323 Frankfurt am Main



F4 1145-1230	Smile! Ethical Motivations of Microcredit Lenders?	Hannes Rusch & Christoph Lütge (TU München)
-------------------------------	---	--

We present preliminary results of a study on the ethical motivations of microcredit lenders. Using case data from actual microloans we experimentally test the effects of different ways of presenting the loan applicants and their business ventures. One ethically relevant implication of the findings could be that presenting microcredit applicants in a way that appeals to sympathy prevents microcredit organizations from attaining their goal of economic development assistance. Additionally, we relate individual microcredit lending behavior to more general ethical attitudes using the Trolley-Case methodology.

Hannes Rusch
hannes.rusch@tum.de
Prof. Dr. Christoph Lütge
luetge@tum.de

Peter Löscher Chair of Business Ethics
TU München
Lothstraße 17
D-80335 München

F5 1330-1415	Robust Intuitions and Experimental Ethics: Bringing Reflective Equilibrium to the lab	Fernando Aguiar (IESA-CSIC Cordoba) Antonio Gaitán (UC3 Madrid) Blanca Rodríguez (UC Madrid)
-------------------------------	--	---

The aim of our talk lies in proposing a way of bringing reflective equilibrium to the lab. We are convinced that only in the lab it is possible to elicit those intuitions that remain after the initial intuitions have been ‘pruned and adjusted’. A moral theory should lean on these intuitions, but to obtain them we should enrich experimental ethics with the methods of experimental economics, criticizing the overuse of survey vignettes in experimental philosophy at the same time. Survey vignettes lack internal validity and do not grasp the process of reflective equilibrium.

Dr. Fernando Aguiar
faguiar@iesa.csic.es
<http://www.iesa.csic.es/directorio/perfil/id/24>

Dr. Antonio Gaitán
agaitan@hum.uc3m.es

Prof. Dr. Blanca Rodríguez
bmerino@filos.ucm.es

Institute for Advanced Social Studies – Spanish
Council for Scientific Research (IESA-CSIC),
Campo Santo de los Mártires 7
ES-14004 Córdoba
Carlos III University, Madrid, Facultad de
Humanidades, Comunicación y Documentación,
Department Filosofía
ES-28903 Madrid 126, Getafe
Complutense University of Madrid, Facultad de
Psicología, Campus de Somosaguas
ES-28223 Pozuelo de Alarcón (Madrid)



F6 1415-1500	The Scope of Behavioral Business Ethics – Preliminary Results from Semi Structured Interviews	Alexander Lenger (GU Frankfurt) Stephan Wolf (ALU Freiburg)
-------------------------------	--	--

Besides their useful contribution to economic research, economic experiments are criticized for their artificiality. If experiments are systematically under-complex, one must question their external validity since too simplistic decision environments will create misleading results. But if participants themselves had the feeling a specific experiment were realistic enough, experiments could indeed claim external validity. Surprisingly, so far no investigations have been conducted in which participants themselves were asked how far they consider the experimental environment a good proxy for reality. Therefore, we present the results from 24 semi-structured interviews about the subjective understanding of participants in experimental distributive settings.

Dipl.-Vw. Alexander Lenger, M.A.
lenger@em.uni-frankfurt.de
<http://www.global-studies.de/people/lenger>

Business Ethics Department, Campus Westend
Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main
Grüneburgplatz 1, 60323 Frankfurt am Main

Stephan Wolf, M.A.
stephan.wolf@vwl.uni-freiburg.de
<http://www.wipo.uni-freiburg.de/teamfolderLSNE/wolfs>

Department for Economic Policy and Constitutional
Economic Theory, University of Freiburg
Fahnenbergplatz, D-79085 Freiburg

F7 1530-1615	Overdemanding Consequentialism? An Experimental Approach	Attila Tanyi & Martin Bruder (Uni Konstanz)
-------------------------------	---	--

Some claim that the consequentialist requirement that we should act so as to produce the best results is unacceptably demanding. The paper first argues that the best form of this objection claims that consequentialism is overdemanding because it requires us, with decisive force, to do things that, intuitively, we do not have decisive reason to perform. The paper then empirically investigates the intuitive basis of the objection. In two experiments, it finds that although people are sensitive to consequentialist requirements, the level of dissent with consequentialism falls short of qualifying as a widely shared intuition, even when demands are the highest.

Dr. Martin Bruder
martin.bruder@uni-konstanz.de
<http://www.zukunftskolleg.uni-konstanz.de/>

Department of Psychology, University of Konstanz
PO Box 216
D-78457 Konstanz

Dr. Attila Tanyi
attila.tanyi@uni-konstanz.de
<http://www.zukunftskolleg.uni-konstanz.de/>

Department of Philosophy, University of Konstanz
PO Box 216
D-78457 Konstanz



F8 1615-1700	The Trolley Problem and the Self-Sacrifice Trilemma	Ezio Di Nucci (Uni Duisburg-Essen)
-------------------------------	---	---

I present experimental data against the intuition that intervening in Bystander at the Switch is morally permissible: following the lead of Thomson's self-sacrifice variant on the trolley problem, participants were first confronted with the self-sacrifice trilemma and then with the classic trolley dilemma - the intuition that diverting the trolley in Bystander at the Switch is permissible disappears.

Dr. Ezio Di Nucci
Ezio.DiNucci@uni-duisburg-essen.de
www.uni-due.de/philosophie/personen.php?ID=131

Institut für Philosophie
Fakultät für Geisteswissenschaften
Universität Duisburg-Essen
D-45117 Essen

F9 1715-1800	Explaining the Knobe effect	Verena Wagner (Uni Regensburg)
-------------------------------	-----------------------------	---

Joshua Knobe claims that "people's intuitions as to whether or not a behavior was performed intentionally can sometimes be influenced by moral considerations" (2006, p. 205). This conclusion is based on an asymmetry found within the answers of survey subjects concerning morally good and bad behaviour. I will challenge this claim by pointing out that first, all examples provided by Knobe provoke a judgment about moral responsibility and not about intentional action; and secondly, that the asymmetry is not a result of subjects being influenced by moral consideration, but a result of the underlying asymmetry between praise and blame.

Verena Wagner, M.A.
verena3.wagner@ur.de
<http://www.uni-regensburg.de/philosophie-kunst-geschichte-gesellschaft/theoretische-philosophie/personen/verena-wagner-m-a-/index.html>

Lehrstuhl für Theoretische Philosophie
Institut für Philosophie
Universität Regensburg
D-93040 Regensburg



Saturday, September 22, 2012

S1 0830-0915	Mapping the Folk Concept of Intentionality: Contexts and Explanations of Intentionality Ascriptions	Andreas Bunge & A. Skulmowski (Uni Osnabrück)
-------------------------------	---	--

In this talk we will present our approach of investigating the folk concept of intentionality. We will describe and criticize the methods commonly used in experimental philosophy and argue that our methodology leads to more valid results. Instead of posing straightforward questions concerning the intentionality of an action, we ask participants in our study to come up with several concrete scenarios involving intentional as well as unintentional actions and to explain why they consider the actions to be intentional or unintentional. Some preliminary results of our project will also be presented and discussed in this presentation.

Andreas Bunge, B.A.
abunge@uni-osnabrueck.de

Institute of Cognitive Science
Universität Osnabrück
Albrechtsraße 28
D-49076 Osnabrück

Alexander Skulmowski, B.A.
askulmowski@uni-osnabrueck.de

S2 0915-1000	Debunking Arguments and the Psychology of Moral Relevance	Benjamin Huppert (Uni Bayreuth)
-------------------------------	---	--

The identification of several determinants of moral judgment has inspired “debunking arguments” to the effect that judgments affected by these influences are inadequate. Frequently, the claim that the factor whose effect on moral judgment has been debunked is morally irrelevant plays a crucial role in these arguments. I sketch a psychological account of moral relevance and consider the prospects of relevance-based debunking on that basis.

Benjamin Huppert, M.A.
benjamin.huppert@uni-bayreuth.de
<http://uni-bayreuth.academia.edu/BenjaminHuppert>

Institute of Philosophy
University of Bayreuth
D-95440 Bayreuth



S3 1030-1115	On the Link between Empirical Science and Moral Epistemology	Nikil Mukerji (TU München)
-------------------------------	--	---

The identification of several determinants of moral judgment has inspired “debunking arguments” to the effect that judgments affected by these influences are inadequate. Frequently, the claim that the factor whose effect on moral judgment has been debunked is morally irrelevant plays a crucial role in these arguments. I sketch a psychological account of moral relevance and consider the prospects of relevance-based debunking on that basis.

Nikil Mukerji, M.A., PostGradDip (Econ)
nikil.mukerji@tum.de
<http://www.wirtschaftsethik.edu.tum.de>

Peter Löscher Chair of Business Ethics
TU München
Lothstraße 17
D-80335 München

S4 1115-1200	Experimental Philosophy is Useful – But not in a Specific Way	Jacob Rosenthal (RFWU Bonn)
-------------------------------	---	--

As systematic philosophical debates are bound to rely on allegedly shared intuitions at some point, the question whether we really have those intuitions is perfectly natural. When one looks at the results of such investigations, however, one always finds that common sense intuitions are divided on the topics of interest. This suggests limited and somewhat unspecific uses of experimental philosophy. Questions concerning the burden of proof are significantly influenced, and the figures may reveal patterns in the judgments of lay persons that are of philosophical importance. The results cannot, however, be used to support specific answers to philosophical problems.

PD Dr. Jacob Rosenthal
jacob.rosenthal@uni-bonn.de
<http://www.philosophie.uni-bonn.de/personen/wissenschaftliche-mitarbeiter/dr.-jacob-rosenthal-1>

Institute for Philosophy
University of Bonn
Am Hof 1
D-53113 Bonn



S5 1330-1415	Moral Tradeoffs through the Lens of Ecological Perception	Andre Grimes (Uni / MPI Jena)
-------------------------------	---	--

The talk addresses deontological, consequentialist, and more psychological accounts of judgments in moral dilemmas. In turn it proposes an integrative ecological framework which incorporates insights from psychological, economic, and philosophical disciplines. In addition to implications for empirical research, an expansion of the ecological accounts of social perception proposed by Gibson and adopted by social psychologists such as Zebrowitz is proposed. Specifically, verbal representations and higher order concepts such as likelihood and permissibility are integrated into notions of ecological perception. Moral tradeoffs are examined in terms of affect-driven social category evaluations and bias-relevant elements of context such as rules and uncertainty.

Andre Grimes, M.A.

andre.grimes@uni-jena.de

<http://www.gsbc.uni-jena.de/index.php?id=422>

International Max Planck Research School on Adapting
Behavior in a Fundamentally Uncertain World

Friedrich Schiller University Jena

Bachstr. 18k

D-07743 Jena

S6 1415-1500	Experimental Ethics and Multi-Agent Systems	Sabine Thürmel (TU München)
-------------------------------	---	--

In order to understand agency and interagency in virtual and hybrid constellations a concept of multi-dimensional, gradual agency is introduced. It offers a classification framework for the observation and interpretation of scenarios where humans and nonhumans interact. It may be applied to the analysis of the potential of social computing systems and their virtual and real actualizations. The approach may also be used to describe situations where options to act are delegated to technical agents. Ethically relevant scenarios where solely humans act can be compared to test-bed simulations and hybrid constellations.

Dr. Sabine Thürmel

sabine@thuermel.de

Carl von Linde-Akademie

TU München

Arcisstr. 21

D-80333 München



Workshop Evening Program

Thursday, 2030: **Informal get-together** at Brauhaus Joh. Albrecht, Inselgasse 17,
GPS: 47.667718, 9.177449.

Friday, 1930: **Dinner** (à la carte) at restaurant Seerhein, Spanierstraße 3,
GPS: 47.664820, 9.174994.

Call for Papers

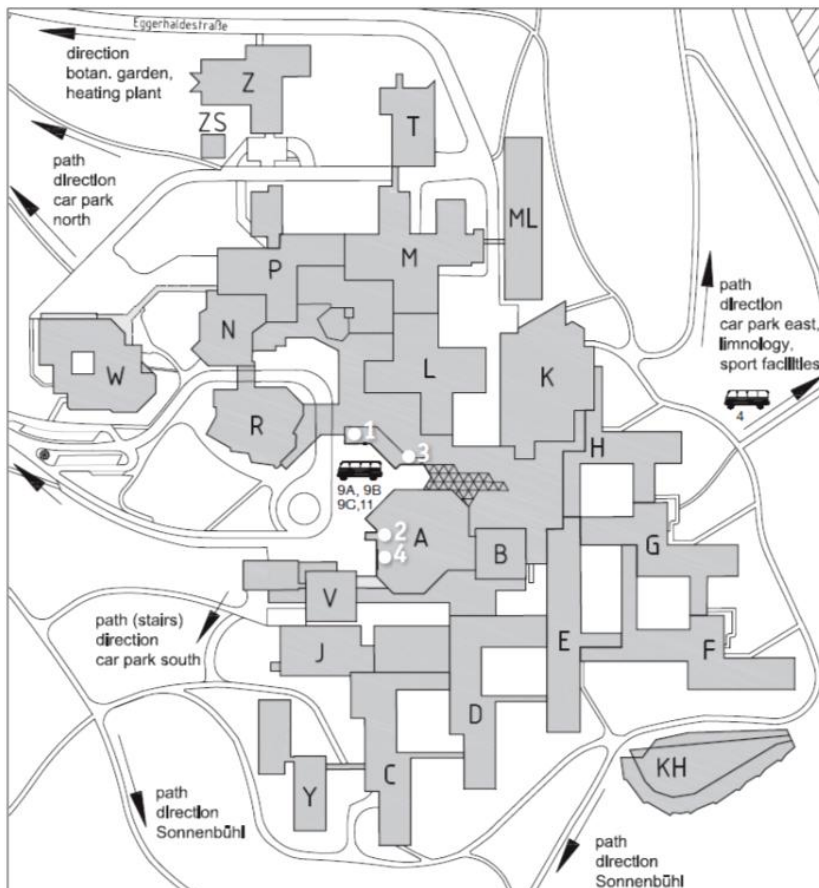
We cordially invite you to contribute your presented papers to our planned peer-reviewed volume *Experimental Ethics*, edited by C. Lütge, H. Rusch & M. Uhl. Manuscripts should not exceed 20,000 words. Submission deadline: May 31, 2013. Contact: hannes.rusch@tum.de

Need a lab?

With the Experimental Ethics Laboratory (EEL) the Peter Löscher Chair offers a standing platform for conducting philosophical experiments. We have lab space available in Munich and are also continuously developing a versatile online platform, called ‘EGG’, for conducting web-based experiments. We are always open to new research collaborations.

For further information visit: www.wirtschaftsethik.edu.tum.de/en/lab/

Campus Map



Universität Konstanz
Universitätsstr. 10
D-78464 Konstanz
www.gap8.de

- 1 Eingang links / Entrance left
- 2 Eingang rechts / Entrance right
- 3 Garderobe / cloakroom upstairs
- 4 Information / i-point caretaker

- A6 GAP.8 Congress Counter (17.9.-20.9.)
- A6 Audimax
- A7 Vortragsräume / lecture rooms
- C Vortragsräume / lecture rooms
- D Vortragsräume / lecture rooms
- K Mensa / Cafeteria
- K4 Arche / Chinese Restaurant