



Monday, 23 November, 10.00 – 18.00

Author meets Critics: Conceptual Analysis and Experimental Philosophy

Professor Edouard Machery (Pittsburgh)

In his new book project, *Philosophy Within Its Proper Bounds*, Edouard Machery argues that resolving many traditional and contemporary philosophical issues (whether dualism is true, what knowledge, causation, personal identity are) is beyond our reach. We could only resolve these issues if we could learn about metaphysical necessities and possibilities of philosophical importance. However, philosophers' main method for learning about those necessities and possibilities – the method of cases – is severely deficient, and examining closely the prospects of the method of cases leads to a form of modal skepticism. Such philosophical issues should therefore be dismissed, he concludes.

What should philosophers focus on instead? The dismissal of the method of cases should free time and resources for bringing back to prominence a once-central intellectual endeavor: conceptual analysis. This involves developing a “rebooted” conceptual analysis that avoids the problems of classical armchair analysis and uses experimental methods to study the conceptual connections of a concept of philosophical importance.

The workshop will be based on Machery's unpublished manuscript, which will be sent to participants by email.

For registration, please send an email to sfink@ovgu.de

All are welcome.