



**Universität
Zürich^{UZH}**

Institute of Philosophy
Doctoral Program "Philosophy – Language, Mind and Practice"

Zurich Doctoral Workshop

**The Nature of Conceptual
Capacities**

with Prof. Robert B. Pippin
University of Chicago

9th June 2015

Synopsis

The notion of *conceptual capacities* has been put forward to account for the difficult relation between the conscious conduct of thought and action by subjects and the natural, physical world those subjects are placed in. Furthermore the linguistic and social nature of such capacities has been called to attention. Can the idea of conceptual capacities deliver a 'natural' take on notoriously internal phenomena such as the mind, (self-)consciousness, and the content of linguistic expressions? What would such a take consist in? Put this way, the idea of conceptual capacities seems to sit on the fence separating Kantian transcendental idealism and its Hegelian heirs on the one hand and contemporary methodological naturalism on the other. Is the idea then nothing but a modern restatement of some kind of anti-naturalism or can it be accounted for by a non-conceptualist approach to cognitive content, naturalist in spirit? Or might it even figure as something in between?

This workshop will provide doctoral students with the opportunity to present their systematic work on (non)conceptualism and/or naturalism in cognition or action and discuss it with Prof. Pippin, a leading Kant and Hegel scholar and critical commentator on naturalist, neopragmatist and conceptualist readings of them.

Schedule

Tuesday, 9th June 2015

- 8:30 – 12:30 **Robert Pippin (University of Chicago):** “Reason’s Form”
- 13:30 – 14:30 **Marco Toscano (University of Zurich):** “Conceptual Capacities and the Activity / Passivity Distinction”
- 14:30 – 15:30 **Mathias Birrer (University of Luxembourg):** “Three Aspects of Objectivity in Kant’s Transcendental Deduction”
- 15:30 – 16:30 **Reto Gubelmann (University of Zurich):** “Not as he intended to: Why Quine's Account of First-Language Acquisition Needs Intentions, and why it cannot have them”
- 17:00 – 18:00 **Sam Mathews (University of London):** “Articulating the World: Perception in McDowell and Travis”
- 18:00 – 19:00 **Michael Frey (University of Leipzig):** “Second Nature as the Perfection of First Nature”
- 19:30 Conference Dinner

Suggested reading list (Reading material can be provided on demand):

- Robert Pippin: Reason's Form
- Robert Pippin: McDowell's Germans
- Robert Pippin: Brandom's Hegel
- John McDowell: Two Sorts of Naturalism
- John McDowell: Naturalism in the Philosophy of Mind
- Tyler Burge: Perceptual Objectivity

Registration and Information: marco.toscano@philos.uzh.ch

Venue: University of Zurich (main building), Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich

Room: KOL-F-103

The workshop is sponsored by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF).