

Workshop
Scientific Philosophy: Past and Future



Tilburg, 13.04.2010

Synopsis

Various philosophers of the past - and many philosophers of today - believe that there can be real progress in philosophy and that such progress is facilitated crucially by a close interaction between philosophy and the sciences. "Scientific Philosophy" maintains that philosophical theses and arguments should be just as clear and precise as scientific ones; philosophers ought to build theories and models much as scientists do; and the application of mathematical methods as well as input from empirical studies are often necessary in order to gain new insights into old philosophical questions and to progress to new and deeper ones. This workshop will address what Scientific Philosophy is all about, what it has in common with science and where it might diverge from it, what we can learn from its historical successes and failures, and, most importantly, how we should assess its future prospects.

Organizers: Stephan Hartmann and Jan Sprenger (TiLPS)

Keynote Speakers

Michael Friedman (Stanford University), Stephan Hartmann (Tilburg University), Christopher Hitchcock (Caltech), Hannes Leitgeb (University of Bristol), Jan Sprenger (Tilburg University), Michael Stoeltzner (University of South Carolina), Jörg Tremmel (LSE), Thomas Uebel (University of Manchester)

Program

Tuesday 13.04

09:30 - 09:45

Welcome

09:45 - 10:30

Hannes Leitgeb: *Mathematical Philosophy in the Past and the Future: Conditionals as a Shining Example*

10:30 - 11:15

Stephan Hartmann and Jan Sprenger: *What Is Scientific Philosophy?*

11:15 - 11:45

Coffee break

11:45 - 12:30

Thomas Uebel: *The Logic of Science and the Pragmatics of Science: Competitors or Complementaries?*

12:30 - 01:15

Michael Stoeltzner: *Scientific Philosophy: The Formation of a Discipline, its Benefits and its Drawbacks*

01:15 - 02:30

Lunch

02:30 - 03:15

Christopher Hitchcock: *Metaphysics, Methodology, and Modeling*

03:15 - 04:00

Jörg Tremmel: *Old Philosophical Welfarism and New Scientific Welfare Research*

04:00 - 04:30

Coffee break

04:30 - 05:15

Michael Friedman: *Scientific Philosophy from Helmholtz to Quine*

05:15 - 06:15

Closing discussion