

Workshop
Objectivity and the Practice of Science



Tilburg, 05.10.2010

Synopsis

Science is arguably among our most successful and sophisticated epistemic endeavors. But how *objective* is it? Aren't scientists and their methods susceptible to all forms of bias? Traditionally, answers to this question have focused on the social construction of scientific knowledge. On the level of individual research, however, other questions might be more pressing: How objective are statistical inference tools? Can evidence-based medicine keep its promise to replace subjective assessments by hard facts? Is it possible to design and conduct a social science experiment that is not contaminated by the experimenter's research agenda? How does the concept of objectivity vary over different scientific disciplines? We invite contributions that address these and similar research questions on the objectivity of scientific research.

Organizers: Filip Buekens (TiLPS, University of Leuven), Jan Sprenger (TiLPS)

Invited Speaker

Ian Hacking, University of Toronto

Program

Tuesday 05.10

9:00 - 9:30	<i>Registration</i>
9:30 - 9:45	Filip Buekens and Jan Sprenger: <i>Welcome and Introduction</i>
9:45 - 10:30	Henk de Regt: <i>Objectivity and Scientific Understanding</i>
10:30 - 11:15	Sean Jennings: <i>Objectivity and the practice of Science</i>
11:15 - 11:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:45 - 12:30	Jan-Willem Romeijn: <i>Observations and objectivity in statistics</i>
12:30 - 13:15	Jacob Stegenga: <i>Meta-Analysis and the Failure of Objectivity</i>
13:15 - 14:15	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:15 - 15:00	Alexandre Guay: <i>The objectivity of physical theories</i>
15:00 - 15:45	Jesús Zamora Bonilla: <i>Rationality and objectivity in a game-theoretic approach to the social construction of scientific knowledge</i>
15:45 - 16:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:15 - 18:30	Ian Hacking: <i>It is a good idea to try to be objective, but objectivity itself is a bad idea</i>
18:30	<i>Reception and Opening of the Descartes Lectures</i>

Acknowledgement

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