



The Research Training Group 2073 *Integrating Ethics and Epistemology of Scientific Research* (Leibniz Universität Hannover/Bielefeld University) invites to a public guest lecture.

Dr. Susanne Uusitalo
(University of Helsinki)

On the two roles of gambling in research and their relation to self-control

Gambling seems to represent a paradigm in decision-making that displays agents' abilities and capacities to evaluate rewards, discount them, take risks, and to adapt to the circumstantial aspects of the decision-making situation. At the same time, though, it is regarded as one type of action, among many, that may evolve to be problematic that is beyond mere defective rationality; furthermore, it may even evolve to be pathological. This kind of action typically also concerns automaticity: people's gambling can be described as being in the zone or having a flow, for instance. By looking at the dual role of Iowa Gambling Task in research, I want to argue that these two roles help us to understand that the phenomenon of gambling is far more than mere decision-making about (temporally variable) costs and benefits, and that should be taken into account when considering its challenges to self-control. It is not only about endorsing or deviating from certain principles and values in one's decision-making that are implicit in gambling. Mere flawed/impaired reasoning leaves potentially recalcitrant aspects such as automaticity from the picture. Gambling that involves automatic behaviour seems to present a different kind of challenge to self-control than defects in rationality, for instance.

Monday, July 11th, 2016
15:30 – 16:45

Universität Bielefeld
Department of Philosophy
Room X-A2-103