



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

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On the ethico-political dimension of phil-sci problems

In philosophy of science, it is common to distinguish two approaches to scientific problems. On the one hand, general philosophy of science, where one investigates problems of scientific method that cut across different disciplines. On the other hand, philosophy of the special sciences, where the questions posed are instead domain-specific. In this talk, I focus on selected domain-specific problems, using 'cross-cutting' philosophy of science concepts. Specifically, I select from the fields of the health sciences and public health, the question of how to conceptualise health and disease. This selection serves two purposes. First, I discuss the conceptualisation of health and disease from a causal perspective, one that includes social factors as proper active causes on par with biological ones. Despite the vast existing literature on social factors and health, I argue that this is not an obvious point to make. Second, I consider what kind of public health interventions should follow, were one to accept such a conceptualisation. This second point is to argue that 'philsci problems' are non-neutral from an ethico-political perspective. The question then arises how to discuss philsci problems, integrating their ethico-political dimension. To answer this question I look at the tools offered by major contributions in public health ethics and then explore the prospects of constructionist ethics.

Thursday, January 24, 2019
16:00 s.t. – 17:15

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