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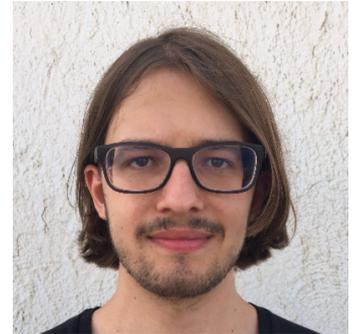
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## Conference Report: SOPhiA 2018, 12–15 September

The 9th Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy was held from the 12<sup>th</sup> till 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at the Department of Philosophy of the University of Salzburg, Austria. The conference brought together over 150 participants from 28 different countries to share and discuss their research in about 90 contributed talks, divided into 26 sessions, three plenary lectures, and five affiliated workshops. As such, the SOPhiA conference covered nearly all areas of analytic philosophy and was attended by a wide range of participants coming from different backgrounds and different areas of philosophy, unified by the idea that analytic methods can help to clarify philosophical problems.



On the occasion of the opening ceremony, the winner of the SOPhiA Best Paper Award was announced: Maximilian Fenner for the paper *Is the UN Charta a Global Constitution?* Afterwards, the first keynote by Helen Beebee (Manchester, UK) titled *Peer Disagreement and Philosophical Commitment* took place, in which Beebee defended a sceptic account of philosophical knowledge. She proposed that instead of aiming for ‘truth’, a more archivable aim for philosophy is an equilibrium of our own individual opinions. Under this view, instead of aiming for knowledge, philosophers aim to find out which equilibria can withstand closer examination, thus, aiming for a stable and comprehensive body of ‘opinions’. Even if this project is revisionary, it is conservative on the first-order level: Philosophers can carry on as normal, although they should take a different attitude towards their own theories. On the same day, the first workshop *Der gegenwärtige Augenblick*, organized by Florian Fischer (Siegen) and Philipp Ritzen (Düsseldorf) took place, which brought together various historical perspectives on the concept of presence.

The second day of the conference featured the second keynote by Elisa Aaltola (University of Eastern Finland): *Moral Psychology and Animal Ethics*. Aaltola stressed the importance of empathy for ethics in general and for animal ethics in particular: If emotions are a necessary constituent of moral agency, purely rational animal ethics, which ignore emotions, are deemed to failure. Instead, Aaltola stressed the relevance of emotions in their influence on our moral decisions concerning animals. Especially reflective empathy can provide a fruitful start point, because it involves evaluation and first-order emotion concepts, but also includes second-level evaluation, making it the ideal choice to cultivate our emotions and allowing us to become better reasoning moral agents in our treatment of animals. After the keynote, three affiliated workshops took place: Popularizing Philosophy, organized by Frauke Albersmeier and Alexander Christian (Düsseldorf) brought together perspectives on the popularization of philosophy, from both a historic and a meta-philosophical account. *Didactics of Philosophy*, organized by Bettina Bussmann (Salzburg), ques-

tioned the foundations, aims, contents and methods of teaching and learning philosophy and their connection to metaphilosophical presuppositions as well as the rapid transformation of our lifeworld. The third workshop, *Bolzano and Contemporary Metaphysics*, organized by Stefan Roski (Hamburg), focussed on Bolzano's contributions to metaphysics and their relevance for contemporary debates.

On the third day, the final keynote lecture was given by Wolfgang Künne (Hamburg): *Literally or Figuratively? – Reflections on Bolzano's Philosophy of Religion and his Hermeneutics*, which was also 2018's Bolzano Lecture, organised in cooperation with the *International Bernard Bolzano Society*. Künne presented a detailed reconstruction of Bolzano's philosophy of religion, aiming to resolve the incompatibility between, on the one hand, Bolzano's claim that divine revelation always attempts to communicate something that is true and, on the other hand, his claim that many revealed doctrines represent their subject matter figuratively, that is not as it is but rather as it is most beneficial for us to think of it.

On 15th, the final affiliated workshop took place. Titled *Biological Individuality and other Issues in Contemporary Philosophy of Biology* and organized by Karim Baraghith (Düsseldorf) and Gregor Greslehner (Salzburg), it brought together leading experts and young researchers from the philosophy of biology and other areas of philosophy of science to discuss various issues from the philosophy of biology.

The conference was organized by Pascale Lötscher, Albert J.J. Anglberger, Christian J. Feldbacher-Escamilla, Alexander Gebharter, Laurenz Hudetz, Sebastian Krempelmeier, Gregor Greslehner, Markus Hierl, Stefanie Orter, and Sebastian Sattler. The SOPhiA conference covers a vast number of different topics from analytic philosophy; allowing participants to encounter interesting and thoughtful ideas in contributed talks, plenary lectures, discussions in and after the sessions and the workshops. Thus, many thanks to the conference organizers, all speakers and chairs, to the workshop organizers, participants and, finally, to all sponsors: KRITERION – Journal of Philosophy, mentis, Land Salzburg, Stadt Salzburg, Metzler, DCLPS, Springer, and the University of Salzburg, without whom such a great and free of charge conference for young analytic philosophers would certainly not have been possible.

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