

Miscellaneous

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Conference Report: SOPhiA 2023

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The 13th edition of the SOPhiA conference – Salzburg Conference for Young Analytic Philosophy – took place from September 6 to 8 in a hybrid format, at the site of the University of Salzburg, Austria, and online.

More than 100 philosophers, Bachelor, Master and PhD students from over 20 countries took part in the conference. About 100 participants gave talks. All on-site and online talks could be attended both at the conference venue in Salzburg and online. All the talks were held in English. In addition to the contributed talks, the conference hosted three plenary talks and four affiliated workshops. The plenary lectures were held by Paul Russell (Lund University), Katherine Dormandy (University of Innsbruck) and Martin Kusch (University of Vienna). The titles of the workshops were: *The Ontology of Natural Languages*, *Abduction in Philosophy of Mind*, *On Attention in Action*, and *Collective Harm and Responsibility in the Climate Crisis*.

The SOPhiA 2023 conference encompassed a range of topics within analytic philosophy, including epistemology, ethics, logic, philosophy of mathematics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, metaphysics, ontology, political philosophy, and philosophy of language. Each session featured a 20-min talk, followed by a discussion period lasting 10 min.

The SOPhiA conference was orchestrated by the SOPhiA Organizing Committee, spearheaded by Raimund Pils. In his opening remarks, Pils greeted the attendees and introduced the keynote speaker, Paul Russell. Russell's presentation, titled *Morality and Responsibility Skepticism*, delved into the views on moral responsibility skepticism as posited by Galen Strawson, Derek Pereboom, and Bernard Williams. He concluded by asserting that Bernard Williams does not subscribe to the extreme skeptical view that individuals bear no moral responsibility for their actions or behavior.

Following the plenary session and a brief intermission for coffee, Carina Reibold, representing J.B. Metzler publishing, conducted a presentation and discussion centered on the intricacies of publishing philosophical works. She detailed the

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submission and publication procedure, tailoring her explanation to meet the specific requirements of authors preparing to publish their PhD theses.

The initial afternoon of the conference featured a series of contributed talks by students, encompassing various domains such as philosophy of mind, epistemology, logic and philosophy of mathematics, ethics, metaphysics and ontology, and political philosophy. Come evening, the attendees gathered for a buffet, providing an opportunity for further discussion and social interaction over dinner.

The second day started with talks in the areas of philosophy of mind, epistemology, philosophy of science, ethics, metaphysics/ontology, and philosophy of language. Afterwards, there was a conference hosted by Senior Acquisitions Editor for philosophy at de Gruyter, Christoph Schirmer. He provided information on how to approach publishers or editors of journals and how to prepare book manuscripts. In addition, Schirmer gave an overview about different publishing opportunities at de Gruyter. The talk was followed by an open Q&A.

The afternoon program continued with the second plenary lecture held by Katherine Dormandy from the University of Innsbruck. In her talk entitled *Science Fundamentalism*, she confronts a form of epistemically problematic belief in the accounts of experts that arise among scientists themselves. She calls this phenomenon *Science Fundamentalism* and shows its similarities with the belief in conspiracy theories. One main take-home message is that we should not judge and criticize those who believe anti-expert accounts without also considering the fundamentalist tendencies of science-friendly people.

The rest of the second day was reserved for workshops. The workshop called *The Ontology of Natural Languages* was organized by Thorben Petersen. *Abduction in Philosophy of Mind* was hosted by Christian J. Feldbacher-Escamilla, Alexander Gebharder and Maria Sekatskaya. The workshop with the title *On Attention in Action* was organised by the Vienna forum for analytic philosophy represented by Martin Niederl, Gabriel Levc, Veronika Lassl, Yara Katnik, Martyna Meyer and Ida Miczke. Finally, the workshop entitled *Collective Harm and Reponsibility in the Climate Crisis* was organized by Matthias Rolffs and Kian Salimkhani.

On the third and final day of the conference, the morning commenced with additional contributed talks, spanning the same fields as the previous day. The concluding plenary lecture was presented by Martin Kusch from the University of Vienna. His talk, titled *The Political Metaphysics of (Scientific) Knowledge*, explored the intricate interplay between knowledge and social power.

The conference ended with a closing dinner.