

Workshop „Foundations in Social Science – Mechanisms, Actions, Functions“, 24th/25th of January, University of Duisburg-Essen

Organizers: Heiner Koch, Raphael van Riel.

The workshop "Foundations in Social Science – Mechanisms, Actions, Functions" is part of the project "A Study in Explanatory Power" at the University of Duisburg-Essen. The workshop will focus on three topics: 1) social mechanisms, 2) agency, structure and ontology and 3) historical materialism and functional explanations. In bringing together these three topics we want to fathom connections that help to achieve a better understanding of each of these areas.

Free admission. Please register: philosophy.step@gmail.com or Raphael.vanriel@uni-due.de

Timetable

Thursday 24th of January

Social mechanisms

10-11:15 Petri Ylikoski "What is the micro-macro problem?"

11:15-12:30 Andrea Maurer "Mechanism models as a variant of explanatory sociology."

12:30-14:00: lunch break

14:00-15:15 Tuukka Kaidesoja and Gianluca Pozzoni "Context-dependence and context-independence in mechanism-based explanation"

15min break

Agency, structure, ontology

15:30-16:45 Dave Elder-Vass "Agency and structure in a critical realist ontology"

16:45-18:00 Daniel Little "Actors and Outcomes"

Friday 25th of January

Social Constructivism

10-11:15 Esa Diaz Leon "Social constructionism and the challenge from empty reference"

11:15-12:30 Brice Bantegnie "Races, Social Kinds and Explanation in the Social Sciences"

12:30-14 lunch break

Historical materialism and functional explanations

14-15:15 Urs Lindner "Functional or Mechanismic Explanations? On G.A. Cohen's Reading of Marx"

15 min break

15:30-16:45 Peter McLaughlin "What do biological and social functions (and mechanisms) have in common?"

16:45-18:00 Heiner Koch "Dysfunctional explanations"