

Agency as an emergent physical phenomenon



Photograph by Inka Reiter

Colloquium talk
by

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Agency is an everyday phenomenon, but also a philosophical and a physical conundrum. We are agents: beings that can meaningfully influence the world. As scientists, we use our agentic capabilities in experiments. But at the level of the physical interactions that our experiments are about, there is no agency. How can agency still be physically real, how does it fit into the world? This question is both a physical and a philosophical one. In my talk I will sketch an understanding of agency as an emergent phenomenon that builds on, but also goes beyond physical principles.



Credit: Henk Bogaard



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HS C, Victor-Franz-Hess-Haus

Organizers: Katrin Erath-Dulitz, Hanns-Christoph Nägerl, Francine Marleau