universität innsbruck
Institut für Christliche Philosophie

Einladung zum Gastvortrag

Christoph Schranz (Universität Innsbruck):

Rules, Norms, and Agency: The Structure of Normativity in Law and Automated Decision-Making

21. 10. 2026

16.45 - 18.15

Seminarraum VI (Theologie) | Karl-Rahner-Platz 3, 1. Stock

This presentation explores the structural difference between rules and norms, evaluating whether automating decision-making through Automated Decision-Making systems is a categorical error or a legitimate development. ADM systems can follow conditional, practise-dependent rules but cannot adhere to deontic, unconditional norms. The argument relies on a three-level architectural framework that traces the origin of rule validity to a fundamental, unconditional norm structure denoted as O(p). The presentation argues that transitioning from a dyadic conditional norm to a material conditional rule inherently involves a “normative substance loss”, i.e. the erasure of the deontic operator. Consequently, human oversight is not merely a risk-mitigation strategy but a strict normative necessity, as human judgment provides the essential deontic access that ADM systems structurally lack.

CV

Christoph Schranz is a PhD candidate in Law and M.Phil. candidate in Philosophy of Religion at the University of Innsbruck. He holds a Mag. iur. and BA in Philosophy from the University of Graz. He works as a University Assistant at the Department for Legal Theory and Future of Law at the University of Innsbruck. His research focuses on philosophy of law, AI and agency, normativity, and cybersecurity. His academic honours include the Lady Margaret Hall Wordsworth Scholarship from the University of Oxford. In 2026, he co-authored the article *Karl R. Popper und die öffentliche Meinung im digitalen Zeitalter*, ORDO (75).