

**July 31 – August 2, 2013,
Hotel Grauer Bär, Innsbruck/Austria**



Conference of the Austrian Science Fund-Project "*Powers and the Identity of Agents*"
Department of Christian Philosophy at the Leopold Franzen University Innsbruck

FWF

Der Wissenschaftsfonds.

Organisation:

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<http://www.uibk.ac.at/philtheol/powers/>

Registration required, conference fee 50 €

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The Ontological Commitments of Dispositionalism

Dispositionalism or dispositional realism, i.e. the view that there are irreducible, causally efficacious dispositions or powers, is a position to be taken seriously within contemporary metaphysics. In recent decades, its proponents have mainly been concerned with showing that dispositionalism is a viable alternative to the highly influential Humean account of causation. However, relatively little attention has been paid to the ontological commitments of dispositional realism: which ontology does the assumption of irreducible powers suggest or even presuppose? Our conference aims at exploring this issue.

In particular, questions to be discussed are:

- How should powers be ontologically categorized? Do they need bearers? If so, to which ontological category might such bearers belong?
- Does dispositional realism favour an ontology of substances or events or tropes etc.?
- Which account of persistence should dispositionalists endorse?
- Are there irreducible powers only in the microphysical realm or also in the macro-physical realm?

Program

July 31, 2013

Registration open from 08.45

09.15 – 09.20	Bruno Niederbacher (Innsbruck): Address of Welcome
09.20 – 09.30	Edmund Runggaldier (Innsbruck): Introduction
09.30 – 10.15	Stephen Mumford (Nottingham): Carnap and the Anglo-Austrian Conspiracy against Dispositions
10.15 – 10.45	Discussion
10.45 – 11.15	<i>Break</i>
11.15 – 12.00	Max Kistler (Paris): Natural Powers and Laws of Nature
12.00 – 12.30	Discussion
12.30	<i>Lunch</i>
15.00 – 15.45	Anna Marmodoro (Oxford): Structural Powers
15.45 – 16.15	Discussion
16.15 – 16.45	<i>Break</i>

16.45 – 17.30	Jonathan Lowe (Durham): Essential versus Accidental Dispositions in the Four-Category Ontology
17.30 – 18.00	Discussion
19.00	<i>Dinner</i>

August 1, 2013

09.30 – 10.15	Neil E. Williams (Buffalo): What is a Manifestation?
10.15 – 10.45	Discussion
10.45 – 11.15	<i>Break</i>
11.15 – 12.00	Anne Sophie Spann (Innsbruck): Dynamism and the Power to Persist
12.00 – 12.30	Discussion
12.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30 – 15.15	Jonathan Jacobs (St. Louis): Dispositions need Substances
15.15 – 15.45	Discussion
15.45 – 16.15	<i>Break</i>
16.15 – 17.00	Josef Quitterer (Innsbruck): The Ontology of Mental Dispositions
17.00 – 17.30	Discussion
17.30 – 17.45	<i>Break</i>
17.45 – 18.30	Ruth Groff (St. Louis): What Does the Doing? On Powers, Things and Powerful Things
18.30 – 19.00	Discussion
19.30	<i>Dinner</i>

August 2, 2013

09.30 – 10.15	Rani Lill Anjum (Oslo): Powers, Causation and Probability
10.15 – 10.45	Discussion
10.45 – 11.15	<i>Break</i>
11.15 – 12.00	John Heil (St. Louis): Ontology of Powers
12.00 – 12.30	Discussion
12.30	<i>Lunch</i>