

Institut für Christliche Philosophie

Einladung zum GASTVORTRAG

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How Imagination Can Justify

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This talk explains the justificatory force of imaginative episodes. I argue that if imaginative episodes piggy-back on dispositions called "conditional beliefs", imaginative episodes inherit their justificatory force. The idea is roughly this: if I am disposed to believe that I am cold, given I believe that I am in the mountains, then if I imagine being in the mountains, I imagine being cold. Since conditional beliefs come with a notion of justification, this carries over to imagination being justificatory. This view faces two challenges: First, the challenge of a lacking stimulus condition to manifest a conditional belief: imagining something typically does not entail believing it. I argue that conditional beliefs can be "offline-manifested". Second, the challenge of new contents: we often imagine about stuff that we have no conditional beliefs about. Based on Amy Kind's notion of "imaginative scaffolding" and Yablo's aboutness-theory, I explain how to overcome this challenge.



Christopher Badura studied Philosophy in Hamburg, Logic in Amsterdam, and obtained his Doctorate in Philosophy at Ruhr-University Bochum in 2021. His research on imagination focused on developing formal logics modelling imagination for a better conceptual understanding. His research has also touched upon issues in epistemology and philosophy of mind. With Amy Kind he co-edited "Epistemic Uses of Imagination". He is currently working in Excellence Strategy Management at Universität Hamburg.