universität innsbruck

Institut für
Christliche Philosophie

Einladung zum GASTVORTRAG

Eric Winsberg

(University of Cambridge/ University of South Florida)

‚So friggin' likely!': gatekeeping as a propaganda tool regarding covid origins.

Mi., 24.04. 2024, 16.45 Uhr s.t., im Rahmen der Tagung „Gatekeeping in Science" (Dekanatssitzungssaal, Karl-Rahner-Platz 1)

One of the most successful gatekeeping exercises in the history of science is exemplified by the „Statement in support of the scientists, public health professionals, and medical professionals of China combatting COVID-19" which urged that „Scientists ... overwhelmingly conclude that this coronavirus originated in wildlife." The authors and signatories urged that dissenters were promoting „Conspiracy theories that do nothing but create fear, rumours, and prejudice." They were incredibly successful in quashing debate about this topic for over two years, and continue to be mostly successful to this day. But though we do not yet know with certainty what the true origin of SARS-COV-2 is, we do know that gatekeepers like Peter Daszak and Kristian Andersen were gatekeeping with political, rather than epistemic, motives. Andersen, indeed, expressed the view, privately, that the ‚conspiracy theory' he publicly condemned was „so figgin likely". In this talk I explore this and other episodes of gatekeeping during the pandemic as episodes of highly effective propaganda, rather than as attempts to preserve the epistemic integrity of science, or to prevent the spread of anything the gatekeepers themselves regarded as genuine „misinformation".

Foto: Eric Winsberg

Eric Winsberg is British Academy Global Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge and Professor of Philosophy at the University of South Florida. His main research interests lie in the philosophy of science, the philosophy of physics, the philosophy of climate science, and the role of models and simulations to guide policy, especially in climate and public health.

Alle Interessentinnen und Interessenten sind herzlich eingeladen!