

Einladung zum GASTVORTRAG

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Pluralizing the Relationships of Public Trust in Science

Mi., 10. 10. 2018, 18.00 Uhr s. t., Seminarraum VI (Karl-Rahner-Platz 3)

When commentators lament the apparent lack of public trust in science, they often do so in general terms, referring to “the” public and to “science” in the singular, as though there is a single attitude of trust across the board. Yet one of the fundamental contributions of feminist epistemologies has been to investigate epistemic issues situationally. Such a situational approach underwrites and motivates my pluralist analysis of relations of trust between variously situated lay persons and communities of experts. I adapt feminist work on interpersonal trust (Baier, 1986; Jones, 1996), to the case of laypersons’ epistemic trust with knowledge-generating institutions and communities, arguing that both a “sincerity-care” condition and a broadly understood “competency” condition must be satisfied. Finally, I complicate relations of scientific trust by noting the array of institutions involved in networks of trust relevant to scientific knowledge. I suggest that the most serious concern is not individual incidents of trust failures, but rather the tendency of both trust and distrust to “travel” across relationships and communities.



Heidi Grasswick ist Professorin für “Mental and Moral Science” am Middlebury College in Vermont. Die gebürtige Kanadierin studierte an der University of Tictoria in British Columbia, der Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia und promovierte an der University of Minnesota. Ihre Arbeitsschwerpunkte sind feministische Erkenntnistheorie und Wissenschaftsphilosophie, sowie soziale Erkenntnistheorie.

Alle Interessentinnen und Interessenten sind herzlich eingeladen!