



Institut für Christliche Philosophie

Gastvortrag

**Anne Sophie Meincke**

(Exeter)

## Human Persons – A Process View

Mi., 20. 4. 2016, 18.00 Uhr s.t., Seminarraum VI (Karl-Rahner-Platz 3)

What are persons and how do they exist? The predominant answer to this question given by Western metaphysics is that persons, human and others, are and exist as substances, i.e., as some sort of discrete particular whose identity is determined by a certain set of intrinsic essential characteristics.

In my talk I want to suggest an alternative view which is motivated by metaphysical considerations about persistence as well as by recent insights from systems biology and the theory of cognition derived from it ('enactivism'). If we take seriously that at least human persons are living dynamical systems, embedded in a natural environment and for their existence at a time as well as through time dependent on an interaction with that environment, we are led to recognise them as organised and stabilised higher-order processes rather than as substances in the traditional sense.

**Anne Sophie Meincke** is research fellow at the Centre for the Study of Life Sciences (Egenis) at the University of Exeter, having previously been a research fellow at the Department of Christian Philosophy of the University of Innsbruck (2011-2014). In December 2014 she was awarded the annual Prize for Scientific Research by the City of Innsbruck. Recently she won, together with John Dupré, the annual conference grant of the Institute of Philosophy in London. Recent publications include: *Auf dem Kampfplatz der Metaphysik. Kritische Studien zur transtemporalen Identität von Personen* (Mentis 2015); "Persons as Bio-Processes", forthcoming in: Dupré, J.: *Process Philosophy of Biology*, Oxford University Press.



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