



Gastvortrag

Juan F. Franck
(Buenos Aires)

Nagel, Rationality and Going Beyond Nature

Mi., 25. 3. 2015, 18.00 Uhr s.t., Seminarraum VI (Karl-Rahner-Platz 3)

In my presentation I will try to explore the notion of personhood as a challenge of naturalism. Thomas Nagel has recently advocated an enlarged version of naturalism that should respect the irreducibility of the elements that compose the universe: matter, life, subjectivity, consciousness, intelligibility, morality. Essential to naturalism, however, would be to provide an explanation “from within”, in contrast with theism, which could argue from extrinsic causes. Some critics of reductive naturalism from the cognitive sciences take recourse to the phenomenology of embodiment and argue for the irreducibility of subjective experience to what natural science studies. I argue that personhood should be preferred to embodiment in dealing with naturalism, since besides making room for subjectivity, it also addresses the pretense of a non-theistic understanding of the world. My strategy will be thus to highlight some features of personhood, mainly rationality, and suggest that rationality defies any explanation “from within”. An element of the universe would therefore speak of something beyond nature, showing a flaw in naturalism and opening up the possibility for a theistic understanding of the universe.

Juan F. Franck: Studium der Philosophie in Buenos Aires, Lichtenstein und Fribourg (1996-2005), sowie Forschungsaufenthalte an den Universitäten Notre Dame (USA), Catholic University of America und Centro Internazionale di Studi Rosminiani in Stresa (ITA). Seit 2006 Professor für Philosophie in Montevideo, Uruguay; seit 2014 auch Professor für philosophische Anthropologie an der Fakultät für Ingenieurwissenschaften der Universidad Austral (Buenos Aires). Schwerpunkte in Forschung und Lehre sind die Philosophie der Person, Neurophilosophie, sowie Antonio Rosmini mit Exkursen in die Phänomenologie und zu Thomas von Aquin.

Alle Interessentinnen und Interessenten sind herzlich eingeladen!