Suicidality in Bipolar Disorder:
The Philosophical Dimensions

The population with bipolar disorder (BD), also known as manic-depressive disorder, is one of the highest suicide risk groups. It is well-documented that in BD, the predisposition to suicidality may be attributed to genetic, physiological, and environmental factors. The BD population can thus be viewed as a group with multi-level suicide risk factors, ranging from a “hard-wired” predisposition encoded at a low biological level, to a distinct phenomenology experienced at the highest, mental level. Moreover, certain idiosyncratic features of BD-related suicidality, e.g., its occurrence during manic periods and under certain types of medication, challenge common intuitions about suicidality (for instance that it is necessarily associated with depression, or that it can be completely suppressed by medication).

The distinctive nature of BD-related suicidality thus draws attention to philosophical issues in ways that suicidality in other contexts may not. This talk presents an overview of some of the philosophical questions that arise from BD-related suicidality. Among these are whether suicidal ideations are reflective of genuine desires, the extent to which suicidality in persons with BD exhibits agential properties, and the implications of BD-related suicidality for mind-body debates.

Alle Interessierten, insbesondere Studierende, sind herzlich eingeladen.

Triggerwarnung: Suizid