



# Fachbereich Philosophie

Fachbereichskolloquium  
Sommersemester 2014

Im Rahmen des PHILOSOPHISCHEN KOLLOQUIUMS findet  
am **Donnerstag, 5. Juni**, 18:15 Uhr  
in **G 307** folgender Vortrag statt:

**Prof. Dr. David Sobel**  
Syracuse University/Zukunftskolleg

## Why Subjectivism?

Let us call a theory of reasons for action “subjective” to the extent that it claims that what makes it true that something is intrinsically reason providing for one is the existence of some sort of non-truth assessable favoring attitude one has towards that thing. On the most plausible variants of such a view liking the taste of the ice cream provides a reason to eat it. More generally, on such a view, things are reason providing for a person because she values or favors them. Valuers create value with their valuing.

In the Euthyphro we find strong grounds to resist a picture in which the psychological states of an agent directly ground normative truths in the case of morality. Options are not generally made morally right or wrong, we firmly think, simply because a single agent favors or disfavors them. But this worry about psychological states grounding normative claims is significantly lessened when we look to more individualized normative notions. Neither God nor anyone else can make slavery ok just by liking it. But Sally’s liking a flavor of ice cream can make it the case that she has a reason to eat it. So the sort of subjectivism under consideration here is offered only as an account of some individualized normative notions such as an agent’s reasons, but not as an account of morality. But we will not be ignoring the topic of morality. Rather we will principally be concerned with how the subjectivist account of reasons under consideration here fits, or it is more usually thought fails to fit, with our firm thinking about morality. I will be arguing that subjectivism is less damaged by its counter-intuitive clash with our moral thinking than is usually supposed.

Alle Interessierten, insbesondere auch Studierende, sind herzlich eingeladen.

nächster Vortrag:  
26.6. Christel Fricke: Was ist normal?

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