Early Lunch Philosophy

Im Rahmen der Early Lunch Philosophy trägt am Donnerstag, 29. April 2021, vor:

Gerard Rothfus
(Konstanz)

Stochastic Agency and Rational Deliberation

While Richard Jeffrey’s classic Logic of Decision has much to recommend it as a theory of rational choice, Newcomb problems seem to present convincing counterexamples. In light of this, many philosophers have turned to causal decision theory (CDT) as a more adequate alternative. Unfortunately, a number of recent authors have constructed sequential choice problems that seem to reveal that CDT contradicts plausible dynamic choice principles. These problems are generally taken as casting doubt on the normative status of either CDT or the relevant dynamic choice principles. This talk explores how one might escape this dilemma. We can affirm the normative necessity of both CDT and dynamic coherence if only we also embrace an epistemic principle requiring an agent’s assessment of the causal and evidential import of her acts to coincide. This principle, which I dub Autonomy, turns out to be (largely) necessary and sufficient for a causalist agent’s satisfaction of dynamic coherence. Given the radical nature of Autonomy, however, I also attempt to explore an independent rationale for the principle as a characterization of the end point of an ideal agent’s process of rational deliberation.

Kontakt: hadil.karawani@uni-konstanz.de, caterina.moruzzi@uni-konstanz.de, daniela.2.schuster@uni-konstanz.de