Im Rahmen der Early Lunch Philosophy trägt am
Donnerstag, 05. Mai 2022, vor:

*Damiano Ranzenigo*  
(Universität Konstanz)  

Self-identification

The language of identity and identification is often used to refer to a person's practical orientation in the world, what things one cares about the most and within which frameworks one’s actions can make sense when meaning in life is otherwise threatened. Focusing on psychological identification, I wish to build up from a criticism of Harry Frankfurt’s volitional conception of identification to arrive at a hybrid alternative, relying both on volitional as well as doxastic elements of our psychology. Starting from the assumption that identification is instrumental to overcome moments of serious inner conflict and deep confusion, threatening the meaningfulness of our lives, I emphasize the need to identify with our desires through special beliefs about them. These beliefs are special on two accounts: firstly, as William James remarked, when hypotheses about pressing matters cannot be decided on mere intellectual grounds, scepticism might alienate us from the truth altogether, and some of us can adopt certain beliefs on volitional rather than evidential grounds; secondly, insofar as these beliefs refer to conflicting or smoky mental states of ours (roughly, they have a mind-to-mind direction of fit), they can function as self-fulfilling prophecies, making our later conduct conform to them.

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