

PHILOSOPHY RESEARCH FORUM

UNIVERSITY OF BAYREUTH

Winter Semester, 2023/2024 academic year

List of Information

Presenter	Title	Abstract	Date	Time&Room
<i>Sebastian Watzl (University of Oslo)</i>	What makes attention fitting	TBA	7 th November	16:15 - 17:45 in FANB, S102
<i>Emmanuel Genot (Lund University)</i>	"A Game of Like" or: Online Social Interaction as a Keynesian Beauty Contest.	Abstract: Current behavioral science models have generally adopt a single-agent, decision-theoretic approach to sharing content in an online social network (online sharing, for short). But online sharing is a strategic interaction carried under uncertainty not only about the state of the world, but about decision of other agents. We thus propose a game-theoretic model of online sharing where utilities reflect hybrid preferences for both content and social feedback, making explicit the contribution of agents' theory of mind to content-sharing strategies. We interpret the solution concept for that game---a variant of iterated best reply, based on a cognitive hierarchy model---as a formal	14 th November	16:15 - 17:45 in FANB, S102

		<p>characterization of agents' mutual expectations of (bounded) rationality; compare it to the original cognitive hierarchy model proposed by John M. Keynes in his "Beauty Contest" thought experiment; and present an thought experiment of our own, similar to Keynes' Beauty Contest, where content concentration occurs as a result of mutual expectations and preferences for social feedback, on content that no player actually prefers. We conclude on possible applications of the model, in particular, as a model of online social influence, and on its empirical prospects and practical applications.</p>		
<p>André Bachtiger (University of Stuttgart)</p>	<p>Designing Democracy on Mars and Earth.</p>	<p>The talk presents the DDME (Designing Democracy on Mars and Earth) project which sets up a bottom-up design to obtain a deeper understanding of citizens' democratic preferences (principles and designs). Based on input from democratic theorists, DDME explores how citizens imagine "ideal" democracy (on "Mars") and mend "real" democracy (i.e., how they would reform the political systems they live in (on "Earth")) when they had the chance to reflect or deliberate on the pros and cons of the various conceptions and schemes of democracy. DDME is the first large-scale project to delegate democratic designing to citizens adopting a systematic and global approach where citizens together with democratic theorists reflect on advanced theoretical inputs (e.g. problem-based thinking on democracy) and think creatively about optimal democratic designs. In the talk, I will present first results from the DDME project.</p>	<p>21st November</p>	<p>16:15 - 17:45 in FANB, S102</p>
<p>Katharine Browne (University of Oslo)</p>	<p>What is wrong with how attention is commodified</p>	<p>TBA</p>	<p>28th November</p>	<p>16:15 - 17:45 in FANB, S102</p>
<p>Laura Jahn (University of Copenhagen)</p>	<p>Curbing Amplification Online—Towards Improving the Quality of Information Spread</p>	<p>This talk presents a research project that studies ways to curb the amplification of low-quality content, such as misinformation, on social media using agent-based models and data from the social media platform Twitter (now X). The work focuses explicitly on the amplification through one-click user reactions such as likes and shares. Liking and sharing are central ways by which information spreads in a social network while informing platforms' content-sorting algorithms, further increasing reach. Amplification</p>	<p>12th December</p>	<p>16:15 - 17:45 in FANB, S102</p>

	<p>on Social Media Using Agent-Based Models and Twitter Data</p>	<p>through likes and shares may be driven by coordinated and/or inauthentic actors such as social bots. Yet, also authentic human users may spread low-quality content. In light of social influence and cognitive biases, authentic users may engage with high-engagement posts allocating little to no attention to assess accuracy or quality. Both inauthentic and authentic dynamics amplify misinformation online and undermine the wisdom of crowds: High engagement does not reliably point to high quality. While the inflation of engagement metrics is a readily available manipulation strategy undermining the wisdom-of-crowds effect, research has yet to extensively study the amplification of low-quality content through likes and shares. A major reason is that data on one-click user reactions is non-trivial to collect. From different angles, the research project addresses threats to the wisdom of crowds and aims to improve the (epistemic) quality of the information that gets amplified on social media. We present computational methods to detect inauthentic, coordinated metric inflation and suspicious correlations in reactions data. This part of the project is based on computer-simulated data from an agent-based model and novel empirical data live-collected through Twitter with a scripted algorithm written with the purpose of overcoming the data shortage on one-click user reactions. Another part of the project studies behavioral interventions based on friction to prevent the amplification of low-quality content analyzed with an agent-based model.</p>		
<p>Joint P&E Talk: <i>Gil Hersch</i> <i>(Virginia Tech – Kellogg Center for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics)</i></p>	<p>Weighting Waiting</p>	<p>Abstract: Imagine a case in which there is some good that many people want, for example a refreshment at a kiosk. People know to line up and queue, wait their turn to place their order, based on the order in which they arrived. Now imagine that someone rushes in, yelling that their partner just fainted outside and is in dire need of some water. I assume most people would find it absurd if those already in the queue would insist that the person get in the queue just like everyone else. While we generally treat line cutting as reprehensible, we also recognize that there are times in which people’s claim for a good override our entitlement to be served before them just because we were ahead of them in the queue. What is much less commonplace is the recognition that there exists a continuum between everyone receiving the good in the order in which they join the queue, and some people having a sufficiently strong claim to justify their jumping to the front of the queue. Between these extremes of completely equal treatment and lexicographic priority to very strong claim, I propose a weighting system for queuing based on different claim strengths.</p>	<p>16th January</p>	<p>16:15 - 17:45 in FANB, S102</p>

<i>Viktoria Knoll (TU Dresden)</i>	The Normativity of Gender Revisited	TBA	23 rd January	16:15 - 17:45 in FANB, S102
<i>Ella Whiteley (University of Sheffield)</i>	Attentional Objectification	This talk brings precision to a pervasive but under-theorised way in which objectification can occur: through attentional patterns alone. Further, it introduces particularly subtle forms of attention-based objectification, where the attentional pattern's problems are revealed in its comparative nature. For instance, a person might listen to a woman's conversational contributions, and so not ignore something meaningful about her, and yet find her figure comparatively more noticeable. Alternatively, a person might not fixate on the bodies of black men, and yet find their bodies comparatively more salient than the bodies of white men. Recognising these particularly elusive forms of objectification requires acknowledging that, in contrast with influential interpretations of objectification, one needn't be reduced to a body, or to have one's autonomy denied, to count as being objectified. Moreover, the subtlety of these forms of objectification grants them an insidious immunity from criticism, which results in distinctive harms for the victim.	30 th January	16:15 - 17:45 in FANB, S102