

METAPHYSICAL GROUNDING

May 25th – 27th 2018 | Hamburg*



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AIM

A consensus is emerging among philosophers that a wide range of important philosophical questions are best formulated in terms of a distinctive kind of determination or explanation called "ground". A forthcoming anthology will survey the state of the art on ground, including: its history, the kind of explanation or determination it provides, its logic and structure, its connections to other notions, and its applications to other topics. This workshop will provide a forum in which authors writing for this anthology can develop and coordinate their contributions.

SCHEDULE

	May 25 th	May 26 th	May 27 th
9.00 - 9.30	WELCOME		
9.30 - 11.00	Session 1 <i>History</i>	Session 3 <i>Logic & Structure</i>	Session 5 <i>Connections</i>
11.00 - 11.30	COFFEE BREAK		
11.30 - 1.00	Session 2 <i>Explanation & Determination</i>	Session 4 <i>Applications</i>	Session 5 <i>continued</i>
1.00 - 2.30	LUNCH BREAK		
2.30 - 4.00	Session 2 <i>continued</i>	Session 4 <i>continued</i>	Session 5 <i>continued</i>
4.00 - 4.30	COFFEE BREAK		
4.30 - 6.00	Session 2 <i>continued</i>	Session 4 <i>continued</i>	Capstone Session
8.00			DINNER

ABSTRACTS

Session 1 | *History*

Contributors:

Phil Corkum, Marko Malink, Stefan Roski

Chair: Stefan Roski

In spite of some recent insinuations to the contrary, good cases can be made that grounding has been a central concern of philosophers throughout the past two millennia. This session gathers some work on the history of ground in Ancient, Medieval, and 19th-century philosophy.

Session 2 | *Explanation & Determination*

Contributors:

Louis deRosset, Martin Glazier, Kathrin Koslicki, Jon Litland,
Kevin Richardson, Benjamin Schnieder

Chair: Kathrin Koslicki

This session investigates the connections between grounding and explanation (Martin Glazier), and dependence (Benjamin Schnieder); meta-ground (Jon Litland); the varieties of ground (Kevin Richardson); skeptical doubts about grounding (Kathrin Koslicki) and rejoinders to these skeptical doubts (Louis deRosset).

Session 3 | *Logic & Structure*

Contributors:

Scott Dixon, Stephan Kraemer

Chair: Stephan Kraemer

The contributions to this session address questions about the structural features of ground and the way ground interacts with logical concepts. We begin by providing a brief overview of the four topics in this section—Granularity, Infinite Descent, Is Ground a Partial Order?, Logical Puzzles of Ground—and the broad plans the respective contributors—Fabrice Correia, T. Scott Dixon, Naomi Thompson, Stephan Kraemer—have for their articles. After that, the authors who are present, Dixon and Kraemer will give a somewhat more detailed overview of their contributions on the possibility of infinite descending chains of ground and on the logical puzzles of ground, and then open up the discussion.

Session 4 | *Applications*

Contributors:

Fatema Amijee, Carolyn Brighthouse, Kit Fine, Michaela McSweeney,
Asya Passinsky, Erica Shumener, Tobias Wilsch

Chair: Kit Fine

This session explores applications of grounding to the following areas: logically complex and logically simpler facts (McSweeney), laws of metaphysics (Wilsch), identity (Shumener), the Principle of Sufficient Reason in Spinoza and Leibniz (Amijee), philosophy of physics, in particular of spacetime theories (Brighthouse), social ontology and race/gender (Passinsky), truthmaker semantics (Fine).

Session 5 | *Connections*

Contributors:

Ricki Bliss, Tom Donaldson, David Kovacs,
Stephan Leuenberger, Olla Solomyak,
Tuomas Tahko, Kelly Trogdon, Jennifer Wang

Chair: Tom Donaldson

In this session, we will see that the theory of ground can illuminate, and be illuminated by, the theory of truthmaking (Trogdon), causation (Wang), emergence (Leuenberger), fundamentality (Bliss), modality (Kovacs), realism (Solomyak), structure (Tahko), and analyticity (Donaldson).

Capstone Session

Chair: Mike Raven

PARTICIPANTS

Fatema Amijee (Simon Fraser U)	Antonella Mallozzi (CUNY)
Mark Balaguer (California State U LA)	Michael McSweeney (U Boston)
Mike Bertrand (Auburn)	Asya Passinsky (Dartmouth))
Ricki Bliss (Lehigh U)	Martin Pleitz (Muenster)
Carolyn Brighthouse (Occidental College LA)	Mike Raven (U Victoria)
Corkum, Philip (U Alberta)	Kevin Richardson (NC State U)
Julio de Rizzo (Hamburg)	Stefan Roski (Hamburg)
Louis deRosset (U Vermont)	Henrik Rydén (Uppsala)
Andreas Ditter (NYU)	Petter Sandstad (Rostock)
Scott Dixon (U Ashoka)	Benjamin Schnieder (Hamburg)
Tom Donaldson (Simon Fraser U)	Erica Shumener (U Pittsburgh)
Kit Fine (NYU)	Lukas Skiba (Hamburg)
Martin Glazier (UNAM)	Olla Solomyak (Jerusalem)
Kathrin Koslicki (U Alberta)	Tuomas Tahko (Helsinki)
David Kovacs (Tel Aviv)	Ryan Tonkin (U Victoria)
Stephan Kraemer (Hamburg)	Kelly Trogdon (Virginia Tech)
Stephan Leuenberger (Glasgow)	Lisa Vogt (Barcelona)
Jon Litland (UT Austin)	Jennifer Wang (Simon Fraser U)
Roberto Loss (Hamburg)	Jonas Werner (Hamburg)
Marko Malink (NYU)	Tobias Wilsch (Tübingen)

ORGANIZER

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Emergency Contact

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