

Benjamin Kieseewetter

Curriculum Vitae

CONTACT

Benjamin Kieseewetter
Vertretungsprofessor für Praktische Philosophie
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CURRENT POSITIONS

Visiting Professor (“Vertretungsprofessor”) for Practical Philosophy, Institute of Philosophy, University of Hamburg

Principal Investigator (“eigene Stelle”), DFG research project, Department of Philosophy, Humboldt University of Berlin (currently on leave for visiting professorship)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

Areas of specialization: Moral philosophy, metaethics, reasons and rationality, children’s rights

Areas of competence: Political philosophy, applied ethics, history of ethics, selected areas of epistemology

EDUCATION

M.A. in philosophy (major subject), early modern and modern German literature, and cultural studies (minor subjects), Humboldt University of Berlin, July 2007 (“with distinction”)

Thesis: “Die Debatte um interne und externe Handlungsgründe” [“The Debate on Internal and External Reasons”], supervised by Christof Rapp and Thomas Schmidt

Ph.D. in philosophy, Humboldt-University of Berlin, February 2014 (“summa cum laude”)

Thesis: “The normativity of rationality”, supervised by Thomas Schmidt and Jay Wallace

Dissertation summary: Sometimes our intentions and beliefs exhibit a structure that proves us to be irrational. This dissertation is concerned with the question of whether we ought (or have at least good reason) to avoid such irrationality. The thesis defends the normativity of rationality by presenting a new solution to the problems that arise from the common assumption that we ought to be rational. The argument touches upon many other topics in the theory of normativity, such as the form and the content of rational standards or requirements, the preconditions of criticism, and the function of reasons in deliberation and advice. Over and above an extensive and careful assessment of the problems discussed in the literature, the thesis provides a detailed defence of a reason-response conception of rationality, a novel, evidence-relative account of reasons, and an explanation of structural irrationality in terms of these accounts.

EMPLOYMENT

Since 10/2016	Visiting Professor (“Vertretungsprofessor”) for Practical Philosophy, Institute of Philosophy, University of Hamburg
Since 06/2015	Principal Investigator (“eigene Stelle”), DFG project “Principles of the Deliberative Ought”, Department of Philosophy, Humboldt University of Berlin [currently on leave for substitute professorship]
04/2013–03/2015	Research Associate and lecturer (“wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter”), Department of Philosophy, Humboldt University of Berlin
03/2014–07/2014	Research Associate, School of Philosophy, Australian National University
01/2009–12/2012	Research Associate (“wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter”), Department of Philosophy, Humboldt University of Berlin (Collaborative Research Centre “Transformations of Antiquity”, Project A1 “Sources of Normativity”, Sub-project “Deliberation”)
04/2005–03/2007	Student Assistant of Christof Rapp, Chair of Ancient and Contemporary Philosophy, Humboldt University of Berlin
02/2000–12/2000	Community service

VISITING POSITIONS

- 10/2011–01/2012 Visiting Scholar at the University Torcuato Di Tella, Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- 09/2009–07/2010 Visiting Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley (USA)
- 09/2003–01/2004 Visiting Student at the University of Nottingham (UK)

PUBLICATIONS

Book

1. *The Normativity of Rationality*, forthcoming with Oxford University Press, scheduled for September 2017.

Articles in peer-reviewed journals

1. “The Right and the Wrong Kind of Reasons” (with Jan Gertken), *Philosophy Compass* 12 (5), e12412, 2017.
2. “You Ought to Φ Only If You May Believe that You Ought to Φ ”, *The Philosophical Quarterly* 66 (265), 760-782, 2016.
3. “Instrumental Normativity: In Defense of the Transmission Principle”, *Ethics* 125 (4), 921-946, 2015.
4. “A Dilemma for Parfit’s Conception of Normativity”, *Analysis* 72 (3), 466-474, 2012.
5. “‘Ought’ and the Perspective of the Agent”, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 5 (3), 1-24, 2011.
6. “Dürfen wir Kindern das Wahlrecht vorenthalten?”, *Archiv für Rechts- und Sozialphilosophie* 95 (2), 253-273, 2009. [“Are We Justified in Denying Children the Right to Vote?”]

Translated into Japanese by Toshiro Terada: “子どもに選挙権を与えないことは許されるか?”, *PRIME* 33, Meiji Gakuin Daigaku, 63-81 (2011).

Further publications

1. “Willensschwäche”, in: *Aristoteles-Handbuch*, ed. Rapp, Christof/ Corcilius, Klaus, Stuttgart: Metzler, 389-392, 2011. [Handbook article on Aristotle’s conception of weakness of will].
2. Translation of Burnyeat, M.F. 1980: “Aristotle on Learning to be Good”. (“Lernen, ein guter Mensch zu sein. Aristoteles über moralische Bildung und

- Charakterentwicklung”, in: *Wissen und Bildung in der antiken Philosophie*, ed. Rapp, Christof/ Wagner, Tim, Stuttgart: Metzler, 215-37, 2006.)
3. “Wir sind nicht Eure Zukunft! Über den Status von jungen Menschen und ihren Grundrechten”, in: *Auf der Suche nach neuen Wegen. Alter(n) und Gesellschaft*, ed. Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Berlin, 17-21, 1999. [“We Are Not Your Future! On the Status of Young People and their Basic Rights.”]
 4. “Die 68er und ihre Kinder - ein Plädoyer gegen antiautoritäre und jede andere Erziehung”, in: *Die 68er. Warum wir Jungen sie nicht mehr brauchen*, ed. Stiftung für die Rechte zukünftiger Generationen, Freiburg: Kore, 139-70, 1998. [“The ’68 Generation and their Children – a Plea Against Anti-authoritarian and All Other Kinds of Pedagogics.”]
 5. “Die Gleichberechtigung der jungen Generation”, in: *Ihr habt dieses Land nur von uns geborgt*, ed. Gesellschaft für die Rechte zukünftiger Generationen, Hamburg: Rasch und Röhring, 309-33, 1997. [“Equal Rights for the Young Generation.”]

Work in progress

1. “How Reasons Are Sensitive to Available Evidence”, invited contribution to *Normativity: Epistemic and Practical*, edited by Conor McHugh, Daniel Whiting and Jonathan Way, forthcoming with Oxford University Press (submitted).
2. “Précis zu *The Normativity of Rationality*” and “Repliken”, forthcoming in *Zeitschrift für philosophische Forschung*, scheduled for December 2017.
3. “Can the Lottery Paradox be Solved by Identifying Epistemic Justification with Epistemic Permissibility?”, article manuscript (invited to revise and resubmit).
4. “What Kind of Perspectivism?”, article manuscript (under revision)
5. “Is There a Liberal Principle of Instrumental Transmission?” (with Jan Gertken), article manuscript (under revision).
6. “Practical Conflicts as a Problem for Epistemic Reductionism about Reasons” (with Jan Gertken), article manuscript (in preparation).
7. “Are All Favorers Reasons?”, article manuscript (in preparation).

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. “Is There a Liberal Principle of Instrumental Transmission?” (with Jan Gertken), 9th international conference of the Society for Analytical Philosophy (GAP), University of Osnabrück, 15 September 2015.

2. "Instrumental Rationality As a System of Categorical Imperatives", 23rd German Congress of Philosophy, University of Münster, 30 September 2014.
3. "Why Reasons For Action Depend on Reasons For Belief", Conference "Reasons: Action, Belief, Perception", University of Saarland, Saarbrücken, 12 October 2013.
4. "The Principle of Decisive Reasons", 8th international conference of the Society for Analytical Philosophy (GAP), University of Konstanz, 19 September 2012.
5. "'Sollen' und die Perspektive des Akteurs", 22nd German Congress of Philosophy, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, 15 September 2011. ["'Ought' and the Perspective of the Agent."]
6. "Are All Favorers Reasons?", Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Philosophy Conference, University of California, Berkeley, 24 April 2010.
7. "Gibt es interne Gründe?", Workshop in Action Theory, Society for Analytical Philosophy (GAP), RWTH Aachen University, 10 October 2007. ["Might There Be Internal Reasons?"]

FURTHER PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

1. "What Kind of Perspectivism?", Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Seattle, 12.04.2017.
2. "Why There is No Such Thing As a Motivating Reason", European Normativity Network Conference, University of Oslo, 03 November 2016.
3. "The Normativity of Rationality", Hamburg University, 26 October 2016.
4. "The Normativity of Rationality", Aarhus University, 15 April 2016.
5. "Précis" and "Repliken", symposium on my book manuscript *The Normativity of Rationality*, with comments by Gerhard Ernst and Erasmus Mayr, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, 04 March 2016.
6. "Instrumental Rationality As a System of Categorical Imperatives", Job Talk for a W2/W3 Professorship for Practical Philosophy, University of Bayreuth, 11 January 2016.
7. "How Reasons are Sensitive to Available Evidence", University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, 01 December 2015.
8. "Is There a Liberal Principle of Instrumental Transmission?" (with Jan Gertken), European Normativity Network Conference, Humboldt University of Berlin, 20 November 2015.
9. "Can the Lottery Paradox be Solved by Identifying Epistemic Justification with Epistemic Permissibility?", Lund University, 02 November 2015.

10. "The Normativity of Rationality", Lund University, 29 October 2015.
11. "An Evidence-Relative Account of Reasons", Lund University, 27 October 2015.
12. "An Evidence-Relative Account of Reasons", Conference "Normativity: Epistemic and Practical", University of Southampton, 09 September 2015.
13. "Warum rational sein? Eine Verteidigung der Normativität der Rationalität", Humboldt University of Berlin, 20 May 2015. ["Why Be Rational? In Defence of the Normativity of Rationality"]
14. "A Buckpassing Account of the Normativity of Rationality", Conference on the Normativity of Rationality, Cardiff University, 06 May 2015.
15. "The Normativity of Rationality", Workshop on Practical Reasoning, University of Vienna, 25 March 2015.
16. "Instrumentelle Rationalität als ein System kategorischer Imperative", Humboldt University of Berlin, 16 January 2015.
17. "Instrumentelle Rationalität als ein System kategorischer Imperative", Leipzig University, 10 December 2014.
18. "Instrumentelle Rationalität als ein System kategorischer Imperative", University of Bremen, 27 November 2014.
19. "Instrumental Rationality As a System of Categorical Imperatives", European Normativity Network Conference, University of Barcelona, 13 November 2014.
20. "What's Wrong With the Wrong Kind of Reasons?" (with Jan Gertken), Conference "The Wrong Kind of Reasons", Humboldt University of Berlin, 22 September 2014.
21. "You Ought to Φ Only If You May Believe that You Ought to Φ ", Australian National University, Canberra, 23 June 2014.
22. "You Ought to Φ Only If You May Believe that You Ought to Φ ", The University of Sydney, 12 June 2014.
23. "The Normativity of Rationality", Australian National University, Canberra, 29 May 2014.
24. "Actualism, Possibilism, and Normative Transmission", Australian National University, Canberra, 15 April 2014.
25. "Die Normativität der Rationalität", Humboldt University of Berlin, 12 February 2014.
26. "Instrumental Normativity", 3rd Konstanz Philosophical Retreat, Insel Reichenau, 28 September 2013.

27. "Instrumental Normativity", Humboldt-Princeton Graduate Conference in Philosophy, Humboldt University of Berlin, 08 August 2012.
28. "Does Williams' Internalism Allow for Universal Moral Reasons?" (Comment), Humboldt-Princeton Graduate Conference in Philosophy, Humboldt University of Berlin, 07 August 2012.
29. "Die Pointe des ethischen Naturalismus" (Comment), Workshop "Formen des Naturalismus in der Ethik", Humboldt University of Berlin, 13 January 2012. ["The Point of Ethical Naturalism."]
30. "The Principle of Decisive Reasons", University Torcuato Di Tella, Buenos Aires, 06 December 2011.
31. "The Principle of Decisive Reasons", Humboldt-Princeton Graduate Conference in Philosophy, Humboldt University of Berlin, 18 July 2011.
32. "Does Nietzsche Believe in Objective Values?" (Comment), Humboldt-Princeton Graduate Conference in Philosophy, Humboldt University of Berlin, 18 July 2011.
33. "The Why-Be-Rational Challenge", Workshop "Agency, Reasons, and the Good", Humboldt University of Berlin, 01 July 2011.
34. "'Ought' and the Perspective of the Agent", Graduate Seminar, University of Oxford, 27 May 2011.
35. "Die Handlung als Konklusion der Überlegung. Zur Form praktischer Deliberation bei und im Anschluss an Aristoteles", Collaborative Research Centre "Transformations of Antiquity" (SFB 644), Humboldt University of Berlin, 07 February 2011. ["The Action as the Conclusion of Deliberation in and subsequent to Aristotle."]
36. "'Ought' and the Perspective of the Agent", philosophical colloquium, University of Saarland, Saarbrücken, 06 November 2010.
37. "Ought and Information", Wollheim Society, University of California, Berkeley, 30 April 2010.
38. "Skepticism about the Normativity of Rationality", Dissertation Seminar, University of California, Berkeley, 23 September 2009.

TEACHING

University of Hamburg

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| Summer 2017 | <p>"Einführung in die Praktische Philosophie: Politische Philosophie", lecture ["Introduction into Political Philosophy"]</p> <p>"Migrationsethik", undergraduate seminar ["The Ethics of Migration"]</p> |
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- “Warum Demokratie?“, graduate seminar [“Why democracy?”]
 “Aktuelle Arbeiten zur Praktischen Philosophie“, research colloquium for advanced students [“Current Topics in Practical Philosophy”]
- Winter 2016/17 “Gründe und Rationalität“, lecture [“Reasons and Rationality”]
 “Aristoteles, Nikomachische Ethik“, undergraduate seminar
 “Unsicherheit und Unwissenheit in der Moral“, graduate seminar [“Uncertainty and Ignorance in Ethics”]
 “Aktuelle Arbeiten zur Praktischen Philosophie“, research colloquium for advanced students [“Current Topics in Practical Philosophy”]

Humboldt University of Berlin

- Winter 2014/15 “Aristoteles, Nikomachische Ethik“, undergraduate seminar
 “Was sind Rechte?“, graduate seminar, co-taught with Felix Koch [“What are rights?”]
- Winter 2013/14 “Armut und globale Gerechtigkeit“, undergraduate seminar [“Poverty and Global Justice”]
 “Dworkins Gerechtigkeitstheorie“, graduate seminar [“Dworkin’s Theory of Justice”]
- Summer 2013 “Einführung in die Bio- und Medizinethik“, undergraduate seminar [“Introduction to Bioethics and Medical Ethics”]
- Winter 2012/13 “Derek Parfit, On What Matters“, graduate seminar, co-taught with Jan Gertken
- Summer 2011 “Metaethik“, undergraduate seminar
- Winter 2010/11 “Praktische Vernunft: Neuere Arbeiten“, graduate seminar, co-taught with Thomas Schmidt [“Recent Work on Practical Reason”]
- Summer 2009 “Tun und Unterlassen“, undergraduate seminar, co-taught with Jan Gertken [“Doing and Allowing”]

GRANTS, AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2015 Grant for DFG project “Principles of the Deliberative Ought” (274,000 Euro)
- 2014 Humboldt Prize (awarded by the Humboldt University of Berlin for the dissertation)

01-03/2013	Scholarship of the Leibniz Prize project “Transformations of the Mind”
10-12/2011	International research scholarship, Humboldt University of Berlin
2008-2011	Ph.D. scholarship by the German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes)
2008	Award for the best philosophical M.A. of the academic year by the Department of Philosophy, Humboldt University of Berlin
2007-2008	Predoc-scholarship by the Carl und Max Schneider-Stiftung
2003	Erasmus scholarship (European student exchange programme)
2001-2006	Scholarship by the German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Conference Organisation

1. Humboldt Normativity Conference, Humboldt University of Berlin, 27-29 June 2016 (together with Jan Gertken and Thomas Schmidt)
2. European Normativity Network Conference (ENN), Humboldt University of Berlin, 19-20 November 2015 (together with Felix Koch, Free University Berlin)
3. Conference “The Wrong Kind of Reasons”, Humboldt University of Berlin, 22-24 September 2014 (together with Jan Gertken and Thomas Schmidt)

Refereeing

Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Dialectica, Ergo, Erkenntnis, Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, Ethics, Incipiens, Journal of Moral Philosophy, The Journal of Political Philosophy, Mind, Oxford University Press, The Philosophical Quarterly, Synthese, Theoria, Zeitschrift für praktische Philosophie

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Co-founder of the children’s rights group K.R.Ä.T.Z.Ä.. Participation at various activities and publications concerning the rights of minors, e.g. lawsuit at the constitutional court in Germany for withholding the right to vote (1992-1999). Co-founder and representative spokesperson of the Foundation for the rights of future generations SRzG (“Stiftung für die Rechte zukünftiger Generationen”) (1997-2000). Elected representative of students (1997-1998), mentor for philosophy undergraduates (2002-2003). Co-founder of ASAP Germany (“Academics Stand Against Poverty”) (2014). Voluntary service for a NGO supporting an orphanage in India (“Act! Orissa”) (since 2015).

REFERENCES (AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)

Prof. Dr. Christoph Fehige, Philosophisches Institut, Universität des Saarlandes, Postfach 151150, 66041 Saarbrücken. Email: christoph.fehige[at]gmx.de.

Prof. Dr. Stefan Gosepath, Institut für Philosophie, Freie Universität Berlin, Thielallee 43, 14195 Berlin. Email: stefan.gosepath[at]fu-berlin.de.

Prof. Dr. Tim Henning, Institut für Philosophie, Seidenstr. 36, 70174 Stuttgart. Email: tim.henning[at]philo.uni-stuttgart.de.

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Heuer, Department of Philosophy, University of Leeds, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9JT, UK. Email: u.heuer[at]leeds.ac.uk.

Prof. Dr. Niko Kolodny, Department of Philosophy, 314 Moses Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-2390, USA. Email: kolodny[at]berkeley.edu.

Prof. Dr. Christof Rapp, Lehrstuhl für Philosophie III, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1, 80539 München. Email: office.ch.rapp[at]lrz.uni-muenchen.de.

Prof. Dr. Thomas Schmidt, Institut für Philosophie, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin. Email: t.schmidt[at]philosophie.hu-berlin.de.

Prof. Dr. Michael Smith, Department of Philosophy, 1879 Hall, Princeton University, NJ 08544-1006, USA. Email: msmith[at]princeton.edu.

Dr. Nicholas Southwood, School of Philosophy, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University, Acton ACT 0200, Australia.
Email: nicholas.southwood[at]anu.edu.au.

Prof. Dr. R. Jay Wallace, Department of Philosophy, 314 Moses Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-2390, USA. Email: rjw[at]berkeley.edu.

Benjamin Kiesewetter

Berlin, 08 June 2017