

PHILOSOPHY AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM



Stiftung
Mercator



Mercator
Research Group

Organization:

Prof. Dr. Markus Werning & Dr. Simone Duca.

Website: www.rub.de/phil-lang.

Venue: Thu. 05 May 2011, 16-18h, GA 04/187.

All interested students, scientists, and scholars are cordially invited to the following talk of the research colloquium:

Prof. Brian Hill (HEC-Paris)

Beyond Probabilities: Belief, Confidence and Decision Making.

The standard representation of beliefs in decision theory and much of formal epistemology, by probability measures, is incapable of representing an agent's confidence in his beliefs. However, as shall be argued in this talk, the agent's confidence in his beliefs plays, and should play, a central role in many of the most difficult decisions which we find ourselves faced with - and indeed, in several sorts of decisions which have been largely ignored in the Bayesian literature. The aim of this talk is to formulate a representation of agents' doxastic states and a (axiomatically grounded) theory of decision which recognizes and incorporates confidence in belief. Time-permitting, attitudes to choosing in the absence of confidence, applications and further directions will be discussed.

Brian Hill is Assistant Professor at HEC-Paris. He studied mathematics (BA, MSc, Cambridge) and logic (MSc, Paris 7), before completing a Ph.D. in philosophy at Université de Paris 1 in 2006.