

Workshop

Morality, Emotions, and Scepticism

22–23 August 2022



Morality and emotions are closely related. What, for instance, would a strong moral verdict be (such as judging something to be morally wrong) if it were not accompanied by a corresponding emotion (such as anger or resentment about the alleged wrong-doer)? While philosophers throughout the history of Western philosophy from the ancient period until today have studied various aspects of this relationship, this workshop will focus on the sceptical puzzles that the relationship between morality and emotions seems to arouse.

One of these puzzles arises from the widely discussed question as to whether moral judgments can express proper knowledge if they are constituted by emotions (or by conative states more generally). Since knowledge aims at truth and emotions (and other conative states) seem not to, this appears to be impossible. Another sceptical puzzle may emerge from the fact that emotions often figure as reasons for moral judgments. A particularly telling case is the phenomenon of forgiveness, which requires an emotional change on the part of the forgiver: that which the forgiver has (or believes themselves to have) reasons for resenting is suddenly seen with indifference or serenity. This seems to be irrational or unintelligible: How can a moral subject consistently forgo a moral verdict that s/he has good reasons to render?

The relationship between morality and emotions, then, seems to leave us with a range of sceptical puzzles: with situations that defy our understanding and/or undermine our ability to know. It is these puzzles that the workshop will thematise from both contemporary and historical perspectives.

Convenors

- Berislav Marušić (The University of Edinburgh)
- Sonja Schierbaum (Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg)
- Stephan Schmid (Universität Hamburg)

Participants

- Michael Gill (The University of Edinburgh)
- Pamela Hieronymi (University of California, Los Angeles)
- Dan Moller (University of Maryland, College Park)
- Oded Na'aman (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- Sigrún Svavarsdóttir (Tufts University, Medford)

Venue

Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies | Jungiusstraße 11c | 20355 Hamburg | Room C319

Please contact MCAS for registration and further information: maimonides-centre@uni-hamburg.de

Zoom

Please contact MCAS for registration and further information.

Programme

Monday 22 August 2022

11:00–12:30	Session 1 <i>Chair: Stephan Schmid (Universität Hamburg)</i>
11:00–11:15	Welcome and Introduction <i>Stephan Schmid (Universität Hamburg)</i>
11:15–12:30	Wolff on Conscience <i>Sonja Schierbaum (Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg)</i>
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break (Room C315)
13:00–16:00	Session 2 <i>Chair: Sonja Schierbaum (Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg)</i>
13:00–14:15	British Moralists Responses to Recalcitrant Vice <i>Michael Gill (The University of Edinburgh)</i>
14:15–14:45	Coffee Break (Room C315)
14:45–16:00	A Puzzling Relation between Value Judgments and Conative Attitudes <i>Sigrún Svavarsdóttir (Tufts University, Medford)</i>
18:30	Workshop Dinner (Restaurant “La Monella,” Hallerplatz 12, 20146 Hamburg) <i>For participants and invited guests only</i>

Tuesday 23 August 2022

09:30–12:30

Session 3

Chair: Berislav Marušić (The University of Edinburgh)

09:30–10:45

The Unbearable

Oded Na'aman (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

10:45–11:15

Coffee Break (Room C315)

11:15–12:30

Emotional Dynamics, Reason, and Representation

Dan Moller (University of Maryland, College Park)

12:30–13:30

Lunch Break (Room C315)

13:30–16:30

Session 4

Chair: Sonja Schierbaum (Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg)

13:30–14:45

On the Temporality of Grief

Berislav Marušić (The University of Edinburgh)

14:45–15:15

Coffee Break (Room C315)

15:15–16:30

Beyond Belief [online]

Pamela Hieronymi (University of California, Los Angeles)

16:30

Final Round and End of Workshop



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

Funded by



Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Research Foundation

