



# THE THEORY-LADENNESS OF EXPERIENCE

**Date:** March 10-11, 2011

**Place:** 23.21/00.46a  
Heinrich-Heine Universität Düsseldorf

**Organisers:**  
Gerhard Schurz  
Michela Tacca  
Ioannis Votsis

**Invited Speakers:**  
William Brewer (Illinois)  
Allan Franklin (Colorado)  
Martin Kusch (Vienna)  
Robert McCauley (Emory)  
Athanasios Raftopoulos (Cyprus)  
Markus Werning (Bochum)

**Interested to attend?** Please RSVP:  
votsis@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de

**Website:**  
<http://www.phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de/phil/personal/tphil/>

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The aim of the conference is to bring together philosophers, psychologists and cognitive scientists whose work contributes to our understanding of the scope and limits of theory-ladenness phenomena, where these are broadly construed to include the domains of perception, scientific evidence and language. Related topics to be discussed: the modularity of mind, nonconceptual content, the epistemology of evidence and the semantics of observational terms.

## PROGRAM

### Thursday, March 10

- 09:30 – 10:30 **Allan Franklin** (Colorado)  
'The Theory Ladenness of Experiment'
- 10:40 – 11:40 **Ioannis Votsis** (Düsseldorf)  
'The Observation-Ladenness of Theory'
- 11:50 – 12:20 **F.A. Muller** (Rotterdam)  
'A Logical Analysis of Theory-Ladenness'
- 14:00 – 15:00 **Michela Tacca** (Düsseldorf)  
'Cognitive Penetrability and the Content of Perception'
- 15:10 – 15:40 **Eva Schmidt** (Saarlande)  
'Does Conceptual Content Have to be Objective? A Defence of Nonconceptualism'
- 15:50 – 16:50 **Athanasios Raftopoulos** (Cyprus)  
'Theory Ladenness of Perception, Concepts, and Cognitive Impenetrability of Perception'
- 17:00 – 18:00 **William Brewer** (Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)  
'Naturalized Approaches to Theory Ladenness: Evidence from Cognitive Psychology, History, and the Ecological Validity Argument'

### Friday, March 11

- 09:30 – 10:30 **Martin Kusch** (Vienna)  
'Hallucinations and Microscopes: Comments on Bas van Fraassen's Recent Work on Observability'
- 10:40 – 11:40 **Gerhard Schurz** (Düsseldorf)  
'Ostensive Learnability as a Criterion for Theory-Neutral Observation Concepts'
- 11:50 – 12:20 **Vincent Israel-Jost** (IHPST)  
'Epistemological Consequences of the Problem of Theory-Ladenness of Experience'
- 14:00 – 14:30 **Guillaume Maranda** (Bristol)  
'Begging the Question: A Reason to Worry about Theory-Dependence'
- 14:40 – 15:40 **Markus Werning** (Bochum)  
'How Alien are Concepts to Perception? Contrasting the Symbolic with the Emulative View of Concepts'
- 15:50 – 16:20 **Ellen Fridland** (Humboldt)  
'Perception, Skill and Cognitive Penetrability'
- 16:30 – 17:30 **Robert McCauley** (Emory)  
'Maturationally Natural Cognition and Radically Counter-Intuitive Science'