

„Gießener Abendgespräche Kognition und Gehirn“

Mittwochs, 18 bis 20 Uhr, Raum: F9

28.10.09 Prof. Iris van Rooij, Ph.D.; Radboud University Nijmegen;

„Intractability and the Use of Heuristics in Psychological Explanations“

Abstract:

„Computational intractability is a problem that plagues many models of human cognition. With the increasing popularity of Bayesian—or otherwise rational—models, intractable models are growing even more numerous. A common approach in cognitive psychology is to respond to intractability by invoking heuristics (i.e., inexact algorithms) as algorithmic-level explanations. In this talk, I will argue that this approach leads to internally inconsistent explanations of cognitive phenomena and should therefore be abandoned. I consider a set of possible objections to my position and give a rebuttal for each. I conclude by proposing a valid and workable alternative to heuristic explanations.“