

# “Gießener Abendgespräche Kognition und Gehirn“

Mittwochs, 18.00 bis 20.00 Uhr, Raum F009

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## „A Tale of Two Systems“

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In Kahneman (2011) the workings of the mind are famously explained by reference to two mental systems, the fast System 1 and the slow System 2. Intriguingly, these systems are described as "fictional characters". I will explore different ways in which this fiction can be understood, and what substantial difference those understandings might make. Starting from psychology, I will sketch how those two characters travel through the behavioral economics literature and then end up in the policy recommendations of libertarian paternalists (see Thaler and Sunstein (2008)). In particular, I will examine an interesting argument in Rebonato (2012) that taking the fiction seriously to varying degrees will result in different choices for economic models of what libertarian paternalists call "internalities", and that these models will then point to different political implementations.

Kahneman, D. (2011). *Thinking, fast and slow*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Rebonato, R. (2012). *Taking liberties: A critical examination of libertarian paternalism*.

Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Thaler R., & Sunstein C. R. (2008). *Nudge ? Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness*. New Haven: Yale University Press.