

„Gießener Abendgespräche Kognition und Gehirn“

Mittwochs, 18 bis 20 Uhr, Raum: F9

31.10.2012

"Comparing scientific and folk causality: clues to the origins of human causal cognition."

Prof. Dr. Keith Stenning (Universität Edinburgh)

Russell (1913) famously claimed that causality had been banished from physics, and some psychologists (e.g. White 1990) have recently claimed on that basis that causality is a purely psychological concept. I will argue that causality hasn't been banished far from physics, and that it definitely isn't a purely psychological concept, but that more careful examination of the change from the folk concept to the physics one is a rewarding study for causal cognition. In particular, the 'history of ideas' suggests that the origin of the differences lies in religion. And that may have far-reaching consequences for the study of causal cognition.

Bertrand Russell (1913) On the Notion of Cause, Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society, 13, 1--26
White, P. A. (1990) Ideas about causation in philosophy and in psychology, Psychological Bulletin, 108, 3--18