



Abteilung Philosophie



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Workshop: Teleosemantics and the Nature of Functions

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## TELEOSEMANTICS AND THE NATURE OF FUNCTIONS

A Research Workshop  
Bielefeld University, September 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 2017

organized by the research project **Advancing Teleosemantics** (SCHU 2860/2-1, NI 1320/2-1), funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).



## SPEAKERS

- **Marc Artiga** Universitat de València [web](#)
- **Justin Garson** Hunter College New York [web](#)
- **Fabian Hundertmark** Universität Bielefeld [web](#)
- **Ulrich Krohs** Universität Münster [web](#)
- **Brian Leahy** Universität Konstanz [web](#)
- **Javier González de Prado Salas** Universidad Autónoma de Madrid [web](#)
- **Ema Sullivan-Bissett** University of Birmingham [web](#)

**WHAT THE WORKSHOP WILL BE ABOUT** One of the central theoretical elements in teleosemantics is the notion of function, which is usually understood in an etiological way. This reference to etiological functions seems to account for the advantages of teleosemantic theories, but it is also responsible for some of their apparent drawbacks.

The goal of this workshop is to investigate the question of whether there is a viable alternative to the etiological approach and whether such an alternative is needed in the first place. The following questions may be pursued among others: Can the explanatory role of contents adequately be captured by the etiological theory? And if so, what version of it suits this purpose best? Does the swampman thought experiment show that teleosemantics should use a non-historical theory of functions? Can misrepresentations also be explained with the help of organizational or system-theoretic functions?

**VENUE** Bielefeld University, building X, room A2-103

**SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION** The schedule can be found here: [Link](#)

**REGISTRATION** Attendance is free. To register please email Fabian Hundertmark ([fhundertmark@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:fhundertmark@uni-bielefeld.de)) with the subject line "Workshop registration".