

VORTRAGSREIHE WISSENSCHAFT IM VISIER

WISSENSCHAFT UND REALITÄT **SCIENCE AND REALITY**



DOES SCIENCE TELL US ABOUT REALITY?

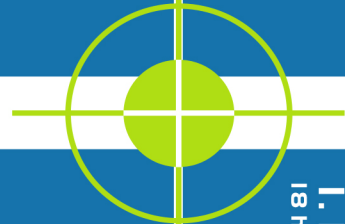
It is a widespread idea that science occupies a special place among all human activities because it gives us access to the Truth about the reality we live in. However, it is in fact an open philosophical issue whether this view is justified, i.e., whether so-called 'scientific realism' is a compelling position. Indeed, the challenge is to defend scientific realism from a number of forceful 'anti-realist' arguments that emerge upon a careful reflection on both the historical development of science and the conceptual features of scientific theories. In particular, there is an interesting question as to whether the theoretical, non-observable entities and processes scientists tell us about truly exist.

MATTEO MORGANTI got his PhD from the London School of Economics, and then held postdoctoral fellowships at the IHPST of Paris and the Zukunftskolleg of Konstanz. Currently, he is a researcher at the Department of Philosophy of the University of Rome 'RomaTre'. His research focuses on the philosophy of science (especially physics), metaphysics and the interplay between the two.

1. DEZEMBER 2010
18 h | 15:30 | UNIVERSITÄT KONSTANZ

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ARE SPIRITS REAL? NOTES ON THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF SPIRIT POSSESSION

It is a major paradigm in anthropology that ethnographers should seek to understand what has been called “the native’s point of view” – regardless whether “the native” is an African peasant or a Swiss banker. But how should anthropologists relate to the claim voiced by religious practitioners in many parts of the world that understanding their life-worlds presupposes the acceptance that spiritual entities exist?

THOMAS G. KIRSCH is professor for Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Konstanz. He received his PhD in anthropology from the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) in 2002 and taught for several years at the Department of Anthropology and Philosophy in Halle (Saale) and at the Department of Anthropology at Goldsmiths College, University of London, before coming to the University of Konstanz in 2009. His main areas of ethnographic research are (a) religion and the anthropology of Christianity in Zambia and (b) security and crime prevention in South Africa.

Weitere Informationen unter www.exc16.de

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