An die Studierenden und Mitarbeiter der Universität Koblenz-Landau Campus Koblenz

We cordially invite you to our guest lecture within the colloquium

Empirisch forschen in der Psychologie

Frau Christina Botros, M.Sc.Phil.

“Moral Luck and Outcome Bias: An Investigation into Different Types of Luck. “

Date and Location:
Tuesday, 5th December 2017
16:00 – 18:00 c.t.
Room M 001

Organizers

Prof. Dr. Diana Boer
Dr. Ayu Okvitawanli

Abteilung für Sozial- und Organisationspsychologie
Abstract:

It is a common assumption that moral evaluation is only possible when the action in question was under the agent's control (e.g. Nelkin, 2008). The doctrine of moral luck (Nagel, 1976) however showed that this is virtually never the case; luck pervades all of our actions. We can be lucky or unlucky regarding our character (constitutive luck), our political and social circumstances (circumstantial luck), and the results of our actions (resultant luck); none of these -- character, circumstances, results -- are completely under our control.

Is moral accountability thus impossible? While this is a question for philosophers to tackle, we can ask what determines our moral evaluations in moral luck cases: Is it all just outcome bias? Can we be made to account for the agent's luckiness? Which type of luck is the most pervasive one?

In this talk, I will first introduce into Nagel's (1976) taxonomy of luck, and give an overview of the literature on outcome severity and outcome bias. Then I will outline my research project with special emphasis on vignette construction and content effects. Last, I will present the results of three studies, attempting to answer the above (and a few other) questions. In short, it will be seen that there is more to moral judgment in moral luck cases than outcome bias, but outcome valence remains an important factor.

Bio:

Christina Botros is a PhD student at the Institute of Experimental Industrial Psychology (Prof. Pfister) at Leuphana University of Lüneburg since 2015. Her research focuses on (moral) judgment and decision-making. In her PhD project she investigates the effect of two different deliberate decision-making strategies on decision satisfaction. A strong side-interest concerns the topic of "Moral Luck".

Christina studied at Göttingen and Jena University (Germany) and UC Berkeley (USA) for her degree in Psychology (2011). Thereafter she earned an M.Sc. in Philosophy (2012) from Edinburgh University (UK). Before starting her PhD she worked at Berlin Social Science Center (WZB) in two interdisciplinary projects.

The lecture will be held in English.

Organizers

Prof. Dr. Diana Boer
Abteilung für Sozial- und Organisationspsychologie
Universitätsstraße 1, E 325
56070 Koblenz
Phone: 0261-287-1958
Email: boer@uni-koblenz.de

Dr. Ayu Okvitawanli
Universitätsstraße 1, F 320
56070 Koblenz
Phone: 0261-287-2018
Email: pkvitawanli@uni-koblenz.de