

Why do people believe weird things? The Bayesian Brain, Conspiracy Theories, and Intellectual Vices (additional Corona-related funding)

Initiative: Lichtenberg - Professuren

Bewilligung: 04.10.2020

Laufzeit: 1 Jahre 6 Monate

One of the leading hypotheses in cognitive science is the claim that cognitive processes are aimed at optimal results prescribed by the norms of Bayesian decision theory. However, this view faces the problem of explaining how people arrive at irrational beliefs, such as conspiracy theories about cellular 5G networks being the cause of the Covid-19 virus, despite abundant evidence against their plausibility. This challenge to Bayesianism will be addressed by turning to vice epistemology, social epistemology, and situated approaches to cognition. The working hypothesis is that a full understanding of the dynamics of irrational beliefs requires a multifactorial model integrating multiple sources of bias, including personal intellectual traits and societal influence.

Projektbeteiligte

Prof. Dr. Tobias Schlicht

Universität Bochum

Fakultät für Philosophie u. Erziehungswissenschaft

Institut für Philosophie II

Bochum

Dr. Krzysztof Dolega

Universität Bochum

FAKULTÄT FÜR PHILOSOPHIE UND ERZIEHUNGSWISSENSCHAFT

Institut für Philosophie 2

Bochum