

There is renewed interest in current scholarship on the relationship between Hegel and Aristotelian philosophy. It is alleged to be a commonplace since the scientific revolution that nature has become (to employ Max Weber's notorious description) "disenchanted." The early modern idea of nature as a locus of unobservable potentials for perfection is now widely thought to have been thoroughly discredited. There is considerable disagreement, however, about how to place Hegel with respect to this development and to what extent he seeks to upset this prevailing consensus about what modern science has revealed about the fundamental character of the natural world. This is the topic which the workshop will seek to explore.

The overall philosophical issues here have to do with how to understand the relation between human mindedness and the natural world and how deep "naturalism" can go as an overall metaphysical commitment. The problems to be discussed are equally crucial and for the interpretation of central texts of classical German philosophy and for the resolution of some of the central problems of contemporary philosophy. The primary participants will be James Conant, John McDowell, Terry Pinkard, Sebastian Rödl, and Pirmin Stekeler

The format of the workshop will be the following: the papers will be distributed in advance. No papers will be presented at the workshop. The workshop sessions will be devoted entirely to a discussion of each of the papers, with the author of each paper responding to questions and objections. Participants are required to register with Daniel Smyth (dsmyth@uchicago.edu), from whom they will receive the papers to be discussed.

Hegel's Aristotelianism

Workshop to be held at
Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin
May 25, 2011

Sponsored by the
Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin

Schedule of the Workshop

Morning Session: Naturalism

10:00 - 12:00

Presenter: John McDowell (University of Pittsburgh)

Chair: Johannes Haag (Universität Potsdam)

Readings:

1. "Two Sorts of Naturalism"
2. *Mind and World*, Chapter 4

12:30 – 1:30
Lunch

Early Afternoon Session: Hegel's Naturalism

14:00 - 16:00

Presenter: Terry Pinkard (Georgetown University)

Chair: Pirmin Stekeler (Universität Leipzig)

Reading:

Hegel's Naturalism, excerpts

16:00 - 16:30
Coffee break

Late Afternoon Session: Hegel's Aristotelian Naturalism

16:30 - 18:30

Presenter: Sebastian Rödl (Universität Basel)

Chair: James Conant (University of Chicago)

Reading:

"Hegel's Dialectic and
Aristotle's *Stufenleiter* of Life"

19:30 – 22:00
Dinner