

INSTITUT FÜR PHILOSOPHIE HUMBOLDT-KOLLOQUIUM



Maria van der Schaar is University Lecturer in philosophy of logic at the Institute of Philosophy, Leiden University. Her historical research concerns early phenomenology, the origins of analytic philosophy, and early modern philosophy. Her philosophical work stands in the tradition of intuitionism and Swedish proof-theory, especially the work of Per Martin-Löf, and she has proposed accounts of judgement, assertion, knowledge and meaning from this perspective. Her aim is to bring problems in analytic philosophy to a deeper level of understanding by introducing ideas coming from phenomenology and the Kantian tradition.

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FREGE AND THE KNOWING AGENT

Frege's logicist project demands that we can know the basic laws of arithmetic by conceptual means alone. We have to know these laws purely on the basis of our understanding the content; they have to be self-evident. As Wittgenstein pointed out in the *Tractatus*, self-evidence gives us not guarantee of the truth of a proposition. Is Frege's notion of self-evidence infected by psychologism, as is often thought?

Whereas philosophers in the analytic tradition generally understand knowledge from a third-person point of view, I will argue that epistemic notions in Frege, such as justification and self-evidence, are rather to be understood from a first-person point of view. Knowing the laws of logic is understanding why they are true, and such a form of knowledge is essentially first person. I will argue that this reading of Frege's epistemological notions does not imply a form of psychologism.

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