



HUMAN ABILITIES CONFERENCE

POWERS AND ABILITIES IN EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY

Organised by Sebastian Bender and Dominik Perler

22-24 March 2023

Location: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin – Main Building (Unter den Linden 6), Room 3059

Wednesday, 22 March

09:00 - 09:10 Introduction

09:10 - 10:20 Dominik Perler (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin):
Suárez on Powers and Abilities as Inner Causes

10:35 - 11:45 Tad Schmaltz (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor):
Occasionalism, Powers, and Human Freedom in French Cartesianism

12:00 - 13:10 Han Thomas Adriaenssen (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen):
Sergeant versus Le Grand on Powers and Causes

13:10 - 14:10 Lunch Break

14:10 - 15:20 Stewart Duncan (University of Florida, Gainesville):
Hobbes on Powers and Abilities

15:35 - 16:45 Colin Chamberlain (University College London):
Move Your Body: Cavendish on Self-Motion

17:00 - 18:10 Patrick Connolly (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore):
Newton on Powers and the Explanatory Limits of Mechanism

19:30 Dinner

13:10 - 14:10 Lunch Break

14:10 - 15:20 Jennifer Marušić (University of Edinburgh):
Locke on Abilities, Action, and Freedom

15:35 - 16:45 Jeremy Dunham (Durham University):
Creatures of Habit: Condillac on the Powers and Abilities of Animals

17:00 - 18:10 Ruth Boeker (University College Dublin):
Trotter Cockburn and Watts on the Power to Think

19:30 Dinner

Friday, 24 March

09:10 - 10:20 Marcy Lascano (University of Kansas, Lawrence):
Du Châtelet on the Powers of Minds and Bodies

10:35 - 11:45 Anik Waldow (University of Sydney):
Moral Competence as a Distinctly Human Ability: Rousseau and Herder

12:00 - 13:10 Karl Schafer (University of Texas, Austin):
Mental Faculties and Powers and the Foundations of Hume's Science of Man

13:10 - 14:10 Lunch Break

14:10 - 15:20 M. Folescu (University of Missouri, Columbia):
Reid on Powers and Capacities

15:35 - 16:45 Sebastian Bender (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin):
Human and Divine Abilities in Kant

17:00 - 17:30 Final Discussion

Thursday, 23 March

09:10 - 10:20 Jean-Pascal Anfray (École Normale Supérieure, Paris):
Two Kinds of Powers in Descartes

10:35 - 11:45 Martin Lin (Rutgers University, New Brunswick):
Spinoza on Powers and Abilities

12:00 - 13:10 Stephan Schmid (Universität Hamburg):
Powers and Abilities in Leibniz

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