

**ALTONAER STIFTUNG FÜR
PHILOSOPHISCHE
GRUNDLAGENFORSCHUNG**

Date **25 October, 2007**

To:

Earlier and prospective new participants:

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18. Valerie Kerruish (Altona Stiftung)

**“Post-normal science and its ethical aspects -
Doctoral projects and other projects in the making”
A new workshop: 21-23 January 2008 ?**

Note: **Please reply by 8 November 2007!**

- Aim: -Network and information between various projects
 -Critical feedback on each project
 -Exploring the borderlines between philosophy of science and practical ethics
 -Scanning for possible themes of and contributions to future workshops

Some of you have earlier attended similar workshops at the ASFPG, but for the benefit of new names on our list we here provide the basic information on this workshop again:

The Altonaer Stiftung für philosophische Grundlagenforschung (www.asfpg.de) is an independent foundation to further basic research on philosophical themes. Its activities are intended to create platforms for academic and inter-disciplinary exchange. This is in part done through workshops with invited participants from various fields. The Stiftung has moved into its house in Altona, where the workshops shall be held. Activities started during the spring of 2005.

It is organised around three “centres”, each focusing on one selected area: legal theory, speculative logic, and environmental and technology ethics. The Board of the ASFPG has opened for project-based undertakings, including e.g. workshops designed to involve doctoral students. Such workshops were already held December 2005 and in January 2007 with great success. The main aim is to provide a basis for networking among young scholars and provide competent feedback to their projects by senior scientists / philosophers.

Description of overall theme:

The concept of post-normal science (see e.g. www.nusap.net) has broken down some traditional and seemingly well-entrenched descriptions of philosophy of science, e.g. between fact and value, the descriptive and the normative, hard and soft science, knowledge and application, internal and external etc. Along with this, traditional disciplinary boundaries are transcended and the politics of knowledge production is highlighted. Extended peer review – a variant of participatory governance – is proposed as mechanism for quality assurance. This provides an arena for an understanding of the ethics of science, both in relation to environmental research and to other research into health and welfare issues. Within this arena several topics emerged during the last 10-15 years that are now the topic for research, among other doctoral and post-doctoral projects. Many of these projects seem isolated and restricted to narrow approaches. It will be the aim of the workshop to critically discuss ongoing or planned doctoral and post doctoral projects, and to explore common themes, interrelations, and over-arching fundamental concepts between these projects. Network activities are seen as useful for both students and supervisors. While it is not presupposed that the students all work within the wider frame of post-normal science, the composition of the resource group of senior scholars will be informed by this approach.

Description of specific workshop assignments:

Doctoral students and post-doc fellows are the primary target group of the workshop and their work will form the centre of the workshop.

Those who participate as a doctoral student or post-doc fellow are asked to present their project, with a focus on their latest research or project idea. The intention is not to "spread the word" about promising projects, but rather to seek critical feedback on issues, topics or chapters that seem particularly challenging. It is a good idea to send a short summary of the project in advance so that the secretariat of ASFPG can distribute it to all participants.

Those who participate as resource person have the main task of critically discussing the project presentations. They may also present a lecture / talk on some of their latest research, preferably on a theme that relates to the overall objective of the workshop.

The time frame for all lectures is between 30 and 50 minutes. Lecture notes in the form of a brief abstract or Power Point presentations are encouraged.

Financing of the workshop:

The ASFPG covers the cost for the participants. Specifically: Travel to Hamburg and back by airline or train, including transport to and from airports, will be covered on the condition that inexpensive / economy class flight reservations are made. Lunches Monday through Wednesday and Dinner on Tuesday will also be covered directly.

Accommodation in a hotel close to the ASFPG will be arranged by the organizers and covered. Arrival one day early and departure one day after the workshop will still be within

the limits of funding. A per diem of 30,- Euro is offered for participants. The ASFPG further provides the venue and technical support for the workshop.

All other expenses during the stay are covered by the participants.

All prospective participants are asked to contact the ASFPG secretariat before finalizing their travel arrangements.

We have set a limit of maximum 14 (travelling and presenting) participants. Since there always are people who for one reason or another cannot participate, the initial invitation is sent to a larger group of people. Suggestions for participants to fill up any vacancies should be made to Matthias Kaiser as soon as possible. If the number of participants is six or lower, we reserve the right to cancel the workshop or shorten it. In that case a notification will be sent out soon after 15 November. If there should be more than 14 who want to participate, we shall administer this on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Normally the office of the Stiftung is attended Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 10:00 h and 14:00 h, i.e. phone calls will have a chance to be answered. During the seminars, the Stiftung opens at 9:00 h.

Registration:

In order to keep the budget and secure inexpensive tickets we require a final and binding registration to the workshop by 15 November 2007.

Please respond to this invitation by **8 November**, by sending an email to Matthias Kaiser (Matthias.kaiser@etikkom.no) and copy it to our administrative officer Ulrike Horway (ulrike.horway@asfpg.de).

Contact details of the Stiftung:

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With kind regards,



Matthias Kaiser