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Teaching Summary (October 2018)

Teaching Statement

My overarching goals in teaching are to help students develop a critical and reflective attitude towards a variety of issues related to the sciences and their situatedness in society, and to enable them to formulate and argue for their own position. I try to achieve these goals by constantly challenging students to not accept too easily what authors say in the course readings, to question claims and arguments, and to examine their own opinions in the light of the views and arguments of others. While I also teach more traditional courses focused on the writings of a particular philosopher or a particular area of philosophy, I align myself with attempts to move contemporary philosophy away from being overly focused on inner-philosophical puzzles to the neglect of real-world issues, and to make philosophy relevant again to the world outside academia. I strongly believe that philosophical teaching (as well as research) should aim to help students achieve clarity of thinking, to help society to address pressing issues, and to do clarificatory work that helps the advancement of the sciences and promotes the dialogue between academia, industry, and society.

I have broad experience with teaching students in philosophy programs (B.A. and M.Ed. with major or minor in Philosophy, as well as M.A. Philosophy of Science) as well as in science and engineering programs (including B.Sc. Biology, B.Sc. Life Science, B.Sc. Biochemistry, M.Sc. Plant Biotechnology, M.Sc. Plant Biology, M.Sc. International Horticulture, M.Sc. Water Resources and Environmental Management, M.Sc. Food Research and Development). In my teaching I have found that my background in not only philosophy but also in science (including laboratory work in solid state physics) enables me to connect well with students from a diversity of programs.

The topics on which I teach include: metaphilosophy, introductory metaphysics, introductory and advanced general philosophy of science, introductory and advanced philosophy of biology, introductory and advanced (analytic) philosophy of technology, British Empiricism (with courses on Bacon, Locke & Leibniz, and Berkeley), research ethics and responsibility, and environmental ethics / the philosophy of biodiversity and nature conservation.

I have obtained a German higher education teaching certificate, *Weiterbildung in der Hochschullehre* (WindH), in 2013. This certificate is issued by the Competence Center for Didactics of Higher Education (KHN) at Braunschweig University of Technology, Germany, and is accredited by the German Society for Didactics in Higher Education (DGHD). The certificate program encompassed 14 one- and two-day courses plus a trial teaching session (amounting to a total of around 225 hours of course work).

Courses Taught

All courses listed below were designed by me. Unless otherwise specified all courses were taught at Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany. Syllabi of most courses can be downloaded from www.reydon.info.

COURSES IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE LIFE SCIENCES (INCLUDING BIOETHICS):

- **Core Concepts in the Life Sciences: An Introduction to the Philosophy of the Life Sciences** (fall/winter 2001 & spring/summer 2002 at Leiden University; fall/winter 2004/2005 & fall/winter 2005/2006 as a seminar at Leibniz Universität Hannover; fall/winter 2012/2013 & fall/winter 2015/2016 as lecture course at Leibniz Universität Hannover; spring/summer 2018 as a lecture course plus accompanying seminar at Leibniz Universität Hannover).
- **How Does Biology Explain? Forms of Explanation in the Life Sciences** (fall/winter 2014/2015).
- **Biology and Society** (fall/winter 2010/2011, fall/winter 2015/2016).
- **Biofatalism? The Debate on Evolutionary Psychology, Human Nature, and Society** (spring/summer 2016).
- **Science & Religion: The “Intelligent Design” Debate** (spring/summer 2009; spring/summer 2012; spring/summer 2017).
- **The Ontology of Biology** (spring/summer 2015).
- **Species Concepts** (Leiden University, spring/summer 2003).
- **Philosophy of Ecology** (fall/winter 2007/2008).
- **Philosophical Questions in Nature and Biodiversity Conservation** (spring/summer 2011, spring/summer 2014 & fall/winter 2016/2017).
- **The Ethics of Agricultural Biotechnology and Food** (spring/summer 2012, spring/summer 2013, spring/summer 2015, spring/summer 2016 & spring/summer 2018).
- **Ethics for Students in the Life Sciences** (course director since 2005; taught myself: spring/summer 2005, spring/summer 2006, fall/winter 2006/2007, spring/summer 2008, spring/summer 2009, fall/winter 2009/2010, spring/summer 2010; spring/summer 2018).
- **Ethical, Legal and Social Issues (ELSI) in the Life Sciences** (co-taught with Nils Hoppe; spring/summer 2015, fall/winter 2015/2016).
- **Topical Lecture Series: Ethics and Law in the Life Sciences** (co-taught with Susanne Beck and Nils Hoppe; spring/summer 2017).

COURSES IN THE GENERAL AREA OF PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (INCLUDING GENERAL ETHICS OF SCIENCE):

- **“Philosophy of ...”: The Philosophies of the Special Sciences** (fall/winter 2010/2011).
- **Theories and Methods of Research (Philosophy of Science for Life Science and Engineering Students)** (fall/winter 2015/2016, fall/winter 2016/2017, fall/winter 2017/2018).
- **Philosophy of Technology** (fall/winter 2009/2010, fall/winter 2017/2018).
- **Karl Popper: *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*** (spring/summer 2013, spring/summer 2017).
- **The Nature of Science as a Topic in Philosophy of Science and Science Education** (spring/summer 2015).
- **The Social and Moral Responsibilities of Scientists** (spring/summer 2015, fall/winter 2017/2018).
- **Good Academic Practice: Thinking about Responsible Conduct of Research Throughout the University** (fall/winter 2016/2017, fall/winter 2018/2019).
- **Research Ethics and Good Scientific Practice** (spring/summer 2011, fall/winter 2011/2012, spring/summer 2012).

- **Ethical Issues in the Natural Sciences** (fall/winter 2010/2011).

COURSES IN THE GENERAL AREA OF PHILOSOPHY:

- **Metaphilosophy: What is Philosophy?** (fall/winter 2011/2012, fall/winter 2013/2014, spring/summer 2017).
- **Introduction to Metaphysics** (spring/summer 2014, spring/summer 2016).
- **Introduction to Theoretical Philosophy** (I served as course director of a lecture series by multiple instructors – fall/winter 2014/2015).
- **The Problem of Induction: Classical Texts from Four Centuries** (fall/winter 2014/2015, spring/summer 2018).
- **The Philosophy of Natural Kinds** (spring/summer 2006).
- **New Work in Ontology and Classification** (spring/summer 2017).
- **Francis Bacon: *Novum Organum*** (fall/winter 2011/2012).
- **George Berkeley: *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge & Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Phylonous*** (fall/winter 2012/2013).
- **John Locke: *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*** (spring/summer 2010, spring/summer 2014).
- **Saul Kripke: *Naming and Necessity*** (fall/winter 2016/2017).
- **Research Colloquium for Bachelor and Master's Theses** (spring/summer 2011).

Graduate Student Supervision & Examination

MASTER'S STUDENTS:

- Yasmin Bauer, *Evolutionary Genealogies of Morality*, M.Ed. Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover, 2014 (supervisor).
- Melanie Hoppe, *Anständig Essen nur ohne tierische Produkte. Eine ethische Untersuchung menschlicher Ernährungsweisen am Beispiel von Fleischkonsum, Vegetarismus und Veganismus*, M.Ed. Biology, Leibniz Universität Hannover, 2014 (2nd examiner).
- Katharina Feuerhahn, *Ethische Pflicht zur Organspende? Eine moralphilosophische Untersuchung ausgewählter Aspekte der Organspende*, M.Ed. Biology, Leibniz Universität Hannover, 2014 (2nd examiner).
- Vanessa Voigt, *Tierisches Leid zum Whole des Menschen? Eine ethische Beurteilung des Einsatzes medizinischer Tierversuche*, M.Ed. Biology, Leibniz Universität Hannover, 2014 (2nd examiner).
- Gunnar Kreisel, *Zur Notwendigkeit von Bezugssystemen*, M.A. Philosophy of Science, Leibniz Universität Hannover, 2015 (2nd examiner).
- Doreen Grusenick, *Eine philosophische Analyse verschiedener Artkonzepte im Biodiversitätskontext*, M.A. Philosophy of Science, Leibniz Universität Hannover, 2015 (2nd examiner).
- Nina Kranke, *The Species Problem: A Phylogenetic Approach*, M.A. Philosophy, University of Greifswald, 2015 (external examiner).
- Anna Weiß, *Über Entscheidungskriterien in der Risikoethik*, M.A. Philosophy of Science, Leibniz Universität Hannover, 2016 (supervisor).

- Cora Baudach, *Forschungsfreiheit: Begründungen und Beschränkungen*, M.A. Philosophy of Science, Leibniz Universität Hannover, 2016 (2nd examiner).
- Philipp Kloth, *Big Data in der Biologie: Epistemologie und praktische Herausforderungen*, M.A. Philosophy of Science, Leibniz Universität Hannover, 2017 (supervisor).
- Markus Ahlers, *Ethische Probleme autonomer Autos*, M.A. Philosophy of Science, Leibniz Universität Hannover, 2017 (2nd examiner).
- Kathrin Wysocki, *Species Pluralism: Epistemological Justifiability of Different Approaches*, M.Ed. Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover, 2017 (supervisor).

PHD STUDENTS:

- Rob Nagtzaam, *In Search of Organizing Principles as Formal Cause of Emergence: Beyond the Predictive Power of the Fundamental Laws of Physics*, Ph.D. Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, Free University Amsterdam, 2014 (committee member, external examiner).
- Alba Amilburu, *La naturaleza de los géneros naturales. Un estudio crítico sobre la contribución de esta noción a la comprensión de las prácticas clasificatorias en ciencia*, Ph.D. Philosophy, Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, University of the Basque Country, 2015 (committee member, external examiner).
- Stijn Conix, *Radical Pluralism, Ontological Underdetermination, and the Role of Values in Species Classification*, Ph.D. Philosophy, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge, 2018 (committee member, external examiner).
- Simon Lohse, *Zur Eigenständigkeit des Sozialen*, Ph.D. Philosophy, Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover, 2018 (committee member, 2nd examiner).
- Doreen Grusenick, *Artkonzepte, Pluralismus und Werte – Eine bloße Geste im Kontext von Biodiversität und Naturschutz?*, Ph.D. Philosophy, Institute of Philosophy Leibniz Universität Hannover, in program (committee member, 2nd examiner).
- Frank M. Fischer, *Das Ich ist ein Märchen – Die gemessene, die erlebte und die erzählte Zeit*, Ph.D. Philosophy, Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover, in program (supervisor).
- Stefano Canali, *The Role of Data and Technology in Contemporary Biomedicine: Integrating Evidence to Study the Relation Between Disease and the Environment*, Ph.D. Philosophy, DFG Research Training Group *Integrating Ethics and Epistemology of Scientific Research* (GRK 2072) & Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover, in program (supervisor).
- Celso A. Alves Neto, *Biological Lineages: Epistemological and Ontological Issues*, Ph.D. Philosophy, Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover (supervisor, 2014-2016), transferred to Department of Philosophy, University of Calgary, in program (committee member).
- Koko Kwisda, *Neue ethisch relevante Aspekte in der Schnittmenge von Stammzellforschung und der Generierung von Chimären*, Ph.D. Natural Sciences, Leibniz Universität Hannover, in program (co-supervisor).
- Martin Wasmer, *Title TBD*, Ph.D. Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover, in program (supervisor).
- August Martin, *Title TBD*, Ph.D. Philosophy, Leiden University, in program (committee member).