

Institut für Philosophie
Philosophisches Kolloquium
Wintersemester 2019/20

Organisation: Prof. Dr. Sebastian Rödl
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Mittwoch, 27. November 2019

Alexandra Newton (Leipzig)

Kant on Habit and Time

To do or to desire something habitually is to do or to desire what one *always* does or desires. One who lacks habit lives in the present as a mere passage from the past to the future; but for one who acts habitually, the present shares in the eternal. In this paper I will distinguish three kinds of 'habit' in Kant's works, and will argue that they correspond to three different ways of living eternally in the present. I will call these natural habits, artificial habits, and free habits. (Kant himself uses the German terms, *Angewohnheit* and *Gewohnheit*, for the first two kinds of habit, and the Latin '*habitus libertatis*' or the Latinate '*habituell*' for free habit.) The three kinds of habit line up with Kant's distinction between three faculties in the mind: the imagination, the theoretical use of the power of judgment, and the practical use of the power of judgment (in virtue), respectively, and correspond to three different senses of 'habituation' and 'repetition'. My main thesis is that natural and artificial habits, in all of their various forms, can have a deadening effect on the subject, causing her to 'lose' herself either to the mechanism of nature or to the mechanism of art (*techne*). Only the free habit of virtue enables a subject to live freely and eternally in the present without the danger of her desires and actions becoming instinctual or mechanical.

Zur Person:

Alexandra (Sasha) Newton hat an der Universität Tübingen studiert und hat Dezember 2010 in Pittsburgh mit einer Dissertation über Kants Logik promoviert. Sie war danach als wissenschaftliche Assistentin an der Universität Leipzig und von 2014 bis 2019 als 'assistant professor of philosophy' an der University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign tätig. Seit Juli 2019 ist sie 'associate professor' an der University of California, Riverside. Sie arbeitet über Kants theoretische und praktische Philosophie, über seine Logik und ihre Bedeutung für die zeitgenössische Philosophie, und über die kantische Ästhetik im Rahmen einer Theorie des Gefühls.

11:00 Uhr, Neuer Senatssaal, Ritterstraße 26

InteressentInnen sind herzlich eingeladen!