



Der Sonderforschungsbereich 991 "Die Struktur von Repräsentationen in Sprache, Kognition und Wissenschaft" lädt herzlich ein zum Vortrag

von

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Property realism about artifacts (and institutional objects as well?)

It can be argued that in spite of artifacts being mind dependent entities intentionally created by us humans, they have mind independent properties that ultimately depend on their being assemblages of natural materials - their natural basis. Such properties, however, or some of them, are not just properties *of* the natural basis: they are objective properties *of the artifacts themselves*. E.g., though copper wiring can be used for data transmission because *-inter alia-* of certain properties of copper, it is copper wiring itself (e.g. coaxial cables), not copper that has the function of transmitting data. Thus there can be *discoveries* about artifacts, which invites (limited) realism about them. Does this extend to institutional objects such as 50€ bills or the Italian pension reform? I will consider arguments for and against, and tentatively argue for an affirmative answer.