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IZWT bei Frau C. Hündgen.
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EINLADUNG ZUM KOLLOQUIUM

Remco Heesen

(Perth)

Is Peer Review a Good Idea?

This talk discusses benefits and downsides of prepublication and postpublication peer review, and argues that the latter is on the whole preferable given current evidence. The talk is based on my paper of the same title as well as subsequent research in this area, especially in an unpublished paper entitled "Jury Theorems for Peer Review". I consider the effects that changing how we organize peer review will have on the social structure of science, paying particular attention to the changed incentive structure and the likely effects on the behaviour of individual scientists. I evaluate these changes from the perspective of epistemic consequentialism. I find that where the effects of abolishing prepublication peer review can be evaluated with a reasonable level of confidence based on presently available evidence, they are either positive or neutral. I conclude that on present evidence abolishing peer review weakly dominates the status quo.

Remco Heesen is a philosopher of science and social epistemologist. His research analyzes the social structure of science using a combination of philosophical analysis and formal methods. His recent work focuses on the epistemic consequences of scientists' decisions regarding journal publications. When and why do scientists share their work? What is the role of peer review? How can we improve information sharing to the benefit of science as a whole? Heesen earned his PhD from Carnegie Mellon University and did postdoctoral research at the University of Cambridge. He is currently a Senior Lecturer at the University of Western Australia as well as doing further postdoctoral research at the University of Groningen, funded by an NWO Veni grant.

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12:00 Uhr

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