

ROSTOCK SOCIAL SCIENCE NEWS

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No. 41

What's on Next Week?

4. - 8. Juli 2016

Montag, 4. Juli 2016

Dienstag, 5. Juli 2016

Mittwoch, 6. Juli 2016

Donnerstag, 7. Juli 2016

Volkswirtschaftliches Forschungsseminar
17 Uhr, SR 021, Ulmenstraße 69

Ioannis Votsis (Bew College London): Vortrag „Truly undesirable theories“

Freitag, 8. Juli 2016

Donnerstag, 7. Juli., 17 Uhr, SR 021, Ulmenstr. 69: Ioannis Votsis (Bew College London): Vortrag „Truly undesirable theories“



Hypotheses may be undesirable for a number of reasons. Some hypotheses are just too slippery to be subjected to tests. They are what Popper has called 'unfalsifiable'. Others are just plain false; in Popperian terminology, these are hypotheses that have been falsified. Yet others suffer from ad hoc-ness. The focus of this talk is ad hoc hypotheses. I begin with a brief examination of some notable conceptions of ad hoc-ness in the literature. It is pointed out that there is a general problem afflicting most such conceptions, namely the intuitive judgments that are supposed to motivate them are not universally shared. Instead of getting bogged down in what ad hoc-ness exactly means, I shift the focus of the analysis to one undesirable feature often present in alleged cases of ad hoc-ness. I call this feature the 'monstrousness' of a hypothesis. A fully articulated formal account of this feature is presented by specifying what it is about the internal constitution of a hypothesis that makes it monstrous.