

Editorial

Friedrich Stadler

Dear members and colleagues,

On the occasion of the 4th Conference of the European Philosophy of Science Association in Helsinki, August 28-31, 2013, we are pleased to publicize the already third issue of our electronic *EPSA Newsletter*. Given the venue of the conference it is mainly dealing with philosophy of science in Finland, which is a remarkable success story since the pioneering Eino Kaila for a smaller country at the margins of Europe. In this regard we are pleased that Jaakko Hintikka will also take part as a speaker in this event.

One of the contemporary prominent proponents of philosophy of science, Ilkka Niiniluoto, the former Rector and Chancellor of the University of Helsinki in the last decade, provided a report on the origins and development of philosophy of science in Finland, where in 2015 also the 15th Congress of the International Union in History and Philosophy of Science/Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS/DLMPS) will be organised. A report by Uskali Mäki, the chair of the Local Organising Committee on behalf of the University of Helsinki and the Centre of Excellence in the Philosophy of the Social Sciences (TINT) complements this focus appropriately. In addition, we are pleased that EPSA Women's Caucus is taking place the second time in Helsinki after Athens, on which Kristina Rolin contributed an informative account.

Another sign for a flourishing research field is the establishment of national societies in the philosophy of science, which EPSA wants to support scholarly and connect with similar initiatives. Therefore, it is most appropriate to include a report by Holger Lyre on the founding of the German Society for Philosophy of Science as a most recent event in this research field. This seems to

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial	
Friedrich Stadler	1
The Finnish Tradition of Philosophy of Science	
Ilkka Niiniluoto	3
Welcome Address	
Uskali Mäki	8
EPSA Women's Caucus: A Report	
Kristina Rolin	10
Report on GWP.2013	
Holger Lyre	11
Report on Activities of the Dutch Society for the Philosophy of Science	
F. A. Muller	13
A Note from the Publisher Springer	
Ties Nijssen	14

me not by accident given the strong presence of several centers and departments, e.g., in Munich, Bielefeld, Konstanz, Hanover, and Düsseldorf, the latter pleasingly applying for the next EPSA conference in 2015. We very much hope for similar developments also in other European countries, as is the case in the Netherlands, on which we received a short note on the related activities by Fred Muller.

An important manifestation of EPSA activities besides its biennial conferences are the publications of the conference proceedings (of which the last volume of the Athens conference just appeared thanks to the efforts of its editors Vassilios Karakostas and Dennis Dieks) and the periodical *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* (EJPS), which is available in the meantime already with its 3rd volume comprising 8 issues. EPSA will also continue the successful ESF Research Network Program "The Philosophy of Science in Europe" (2008–2013) on the level of a book series, to be published intermediately to the biennial proceeding of our conferences. (www.pse-esf.org) A brief information is contributed by Ties Nijssen, the representative of our publisher Springer, who is pleasingly sponsoring again one of the plenary lectures as the "Springer

Lecture in the Philosophy of Science" 2013.

The *EPSA Newsletter* is conceived of as a service for our members and will be available also in a printable PDF-format as usual accessible on our website www.epsa.ac.at/newsletter/, where the last issues are still stored for further information on past EPSA activities. It is hoped that this forum will be extended in the future to a permanent medium for discussions, announcements, and reviews related to philosophy of science in Europe, which, of course, is dependent on the welcome contributions of our members. Together with the forthcoming EPSA Folder to be updated after the Helsinki conference with reference to the new elected Steering Committee, membership policy, and publications, the communication will certainly be strengthened.

As an outgoing President I want to express my pleasure and honour to have served for the European philosophy of science community in the hope of having provided a solid basis for a successful future of EPSA. In this regard I want to thank all past and present members of the Steering Committees, Program and Nomination Committees, chairs, conference organisers and editors of our publications for their efforts, last not least

to all members who have contributed to our joint scholarly enterprise with the vision of a renewed and innovative philosophy of science in Europe covering all scientific disciplines from an historical and systematic point of view.

Special thanks go to Karoly Kokai, the secretary of the EPSA main office at the Institute Vienna Circle, as well as to Daniel Kuby and Christoph Limbeck-Lilienau for their help regarding the EPSA Newsletter and Folder.

Enjoy the forthcoming conference in the beautiful city of Helsinki and let us continue with the cooperation and communication in the exciting and promising research field philosophy of science.

Friedrich Stadler
(President of EPSA)



ABOUT THE AUTHOR Friedrich Stadler is Professor of History and Philosophy of Science (Joint Appointment) at the University of Vienna, Austria and Director of the Institute Vienna Circle (IVC). He holds a D.Phil. in history and philosophy (University of Salzburg). He has published on various topics in modern history and philosophy of science, with a focus on Logical Empiricism in the context of intellectual migration and exile studies, theory and methodology of contemporary history and historiography. He has been President of EPSA 2009–2013. Personal Website: <http://www.univie.ac.at/ivc/stadler/>

The Finnish Tradition of Philosophy of Science

Ilkka Niiniluoto

Logic has a long academic tradition in Finland as a subfield of Theoretical Philosophy. Logicians have always had an interest in the scientific method, but the study of the philosophy of science in the modern sense was started in Finland in the 1920s by Eino Kaila. In the 1950s his successful students made Helsinki an important centre of analytic philosophy, philosophical logic, philosophy of language, and philosophy of science. This work has now been vigorously continued by several generations.

Historical Background

When the first university in Finland was established in 1640 as the Royal Academy of Turku, its Faculty of Arts had two chairs in Philosophy: Theoretical (teaching logic and metaphysics) and Practical (teaching ethics and politics). Thereby the learned community, in spite of its lack of originality, was able to follow

important intellectual trends like scholastic and Ramistic logic, Cartesianism, Bacon's experimental methods, Locke's empiricism, Wolff's rationalism, and Kant's transcendental idealism.

In 1809 Finland was separated from Sweden to become a Grand Duchy of the Russian empire, and in 1828 the Academy was moved to the new capital Helsinki. The Imperial Alexander University in Helsinki adopted the Humboldtian model of university education. This period was dominated by Hegel's doctrines, with Johan Vilhelm Snellman as the main representative. His 1842 theory of the state, based upon Hegelian principles, provided a theoretical foundation to the national awakening of Finland. In 1852 all chairs in philosophy in the Russian empire were closed as politically dangerous, and in 1856 Snellman was invited to the renamed chair of "ethics and the system of the sciences".

As the only professor in philosophy in Finland, Snellman was succeeded in 1869 by his student Thiodolf Rein. He founded in 1873 the Philosophical Society of Finland, and wrote the

first textbooks on logic and psychology in Finnish in the 1880s. His logic includes classical ideas about the scientific method. Rein's work as professor of Theoretical Philosophy was continued in 1905 by his nephew Arvi Grotenfelt, a specialist in German neo-Kantian philosophy of history, influenced by the method of *Verstehen*. Edward Westermarck, who was at the same time professor of Practical Philosophy in Helsinki and professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics, studied the origins and evolution of moral ideas along the lines of British empiricism and naturalism.

In 1917 Finland gained its independence, and the Philosophical Society of Finland (chaired by Grotenfelt) started to publish its yearbook with the title *Ajatus* ("Thought") in 1926 and a monograph series *Acta Philosophica Fennica* in 1935.

Eino Kaila's Logical Empiricism

Eino Kaila, who wrote his doctoral dissertation in experimental psychology in 1916, had broad interests in philosophy. His early essays are critical reviews of Haeckel, Bergson,

and James. In 1920 he argued, against vitalism, that mental life is a biological phenomenon. As an anti-reductionist monist, Kaila was attracted by Mach's ideas, but concluded that the phenomenalist position has to be replaced by critical realism which accepts the reality of both ordinary physical objects and atoms. A radical defence of Mach came from Rolf Lagerborg, a student and friend of Westermarck's.

In the mid-1920s Kaila sought contacts by correspondence with Reichenbach, Schlick, and Carnap. As the first professor of philosophy at the new Finnish University of Turku, he started a series of monographs in German on causality, probability logic, deduction, and philosophy of nature. Already in 1926 Kaila characterized his position as "logical empiricism", as a contrast to psychological empiricism. In 1929-34 he made three longer visits to the Vienna Circle. This association with the new movement with exact methods was a major change of Finnish philosophy. Kaila was an active par-

ticipant in the international conferences of the unity of science. As professor of Theoretical Philosophy in Helsinki in 1930-48, Kaila introduced to his academic audience symbolic logic, modern epistemology and philosophy of science, and Gestalt psychology. However, he never accepted the narrowly positivist views of some members of the Vienna Circle, but wished to solve the riddle of reality. In his German monographs in 1936 and 1942, and in his widely read Finnish textbook *Inhimillinen tieto* (Human Knowledge, 1939), he tried to analyze the concept of reality by means of the concept of invariance.



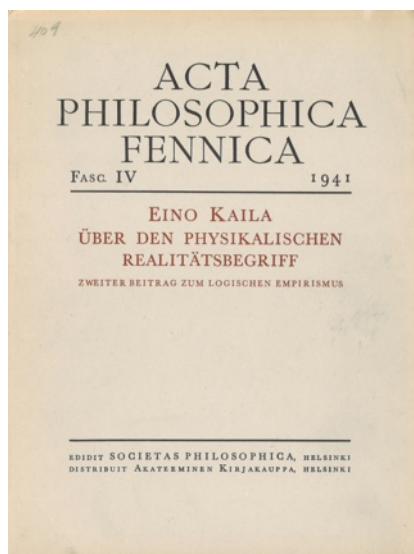
Eino Kaila

formulating a realist and comprehensive world outlook on the basis of best scientific theories, especially holistic "field theories" like quantum physics and Gestalt psychology. But

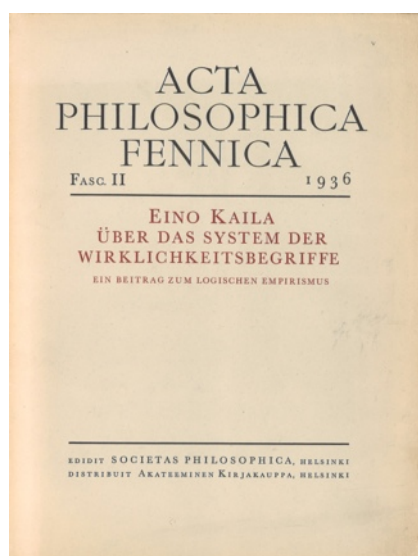
his work was isolated from the new Anglo-Saxon school of philosophy of science: Kaila did not publish in English, and the first translations of his studies appeared in 1974 in a volume *Experience and Reality* in the Vienna Circle Col-

lection. But it was through Kaila's successful students that the analytic tradition became the dominant school in Finland.

Georg Henrik von Wright wrote his doctoral dissertation in 1941 on the logical problem of induction, and continued with important contributions to probability and eliminative induction. The young von Wright's period as Wittgenstein's successor at the University of Cambridge in 1948-51 was the real international breakthrough of Finnish philosophers. After returning to Finland von Wright was elected in 1961 as a member of the Academy of Finland. He wrote studies in philosophical logic, modal logic, and action theory, and became the founder of modern deontic logic. In 1971 he published his *Explanation and Understanding*, which departs from the logical empiricist thesis of the unity of science by its claim that the explanation of action cannot be given by the deductive-nomological model but human actions have to be intention-



Kaila, who succeeded Grotenfelt as the president of the Philosophical Society of Finland in 1936-52, was elected as one of the twelve members of the Academy of Finland in 1948. In the same year psychology was separated from Theoretical Philosophy at the University of Helsinki. Kaila continued to his death in 1958 the "synthetic" task of philosophy in



ally understood by practical reasoning. He also defended a manipulation notion of causality. This work on analytic hermeneutics forged connections between analytic philosophy and Continental trends.

As an Academician, von Wright did not have teaching duties, but he chaired in Helsinki an important research seminar for foreign visitors and younger scholars.



Georg H. von Wright

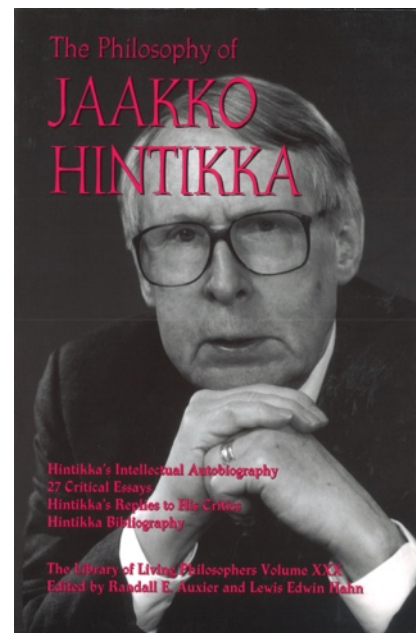
Oiva Ketonen studied proof theory in 1938-39 in Göttingen with Gerhard Gentzen. His doctoral dissertation in 1944 contained an invertible system of sequence calculus, which was a remarkable improvement of Gentzen's results. Ketonen became Kaila's successor in Theoretical Philosophy in 1951-77. During his visit in 1949-50 to the United States he had met Hempel at Yale and Nagel at Columbia University (New York). With these influences he gave annually a course on philosophy of science which included the standard view of analytic philosophy of science. Ketonen did not have original results in philosophy of science, but his role as a teacher of many generations of students was highly significant.

Erik Stenius, Swedish-language professor of philosophy in Helsinki, made his main contributions in logic and the philosophy of language, but his careful "critical essays" included topics related to the philosophy of mathematics and physics.

Jaakko Hintikka and his Students

G. H. von Wright's student Jaakko Hintikka wrote his dissertation in 1953 on distributive normal forms in first-order logic. In 1957 he discovered (independently of the Swedish logician Stig Kanger) the possible worlds semantics, and in 1962 he published his pioneering study of epistemic logic, *Knowledge and Belief*. After a fellowship at Harvard University in 1956-59, Hintikka was appointed professor of Practical Philosophy in Helsinki 1959, and in the 1960s he shared his time between Helsinki and Stanford University. In 1965 he published an improvement of Carnap's system of inductive logic by showing how universal generalizations may receive non-zero probabilities in infinite universes. Later Hintikka worked in Helsinki as a Research Professor at the Academy of Finland, but after 1980 he has been mostly active in the United States (Tallahassee, Boston). Hintikka has been one of the most successful editors of philosophical journals (*Synthese*) and monograph series (*Synthese Library*). Besides his studies in the philosophy of mathematics, philosophy of language, and game-theoretical semantics, he has developed an interrogative model of

scientific inquiry, based on information-seeking questions.



Hintikka has been extremely active in stimulating and supervising research work in logic and philosophy, and many of his students have become university professors in Finland. Risto Hilpinen (professor in Turku, later in Miami), Juhani Pietarinen (professor in Turku), and Ilkka Niiniluoto (Ketonen's successor in Helsinki) wrote their doctoral dissertations on inductive logic, thus continuing "the Finnish school of induction" started already by Kaila and von Wright. Raimo Tuomela (professor of the methodology of the social sciences in Helsinki) applied distributive normal forms to study the methodological gains due to theoretical concepts. Later he concentrated in philosophical issues of social action. Veikko Rantala (professor in Tampere) wrote important studies on theories and theory-change with David Pearce. Juha Manninen (professor of General History of Ideas in Oulu) has studied

Kaila's relations to the Vienna Circle. Matti Sintonen (acting professor of Theoretical Philosophy in Helsinki while Niiniluoto has been on leave in 2003-13) has worked on scientific explanation and the interrogative model of inquiry. Jan von Plato (Swedish-language professor of Philosophy in Helsinki) worked on the history and foundations of probability theory before turning to structural proof theory. Martin Kusch, a German philosopher educated in Finland, worked with Hintikka on the philosophy of language, and wrote a Finnish textbook on hermeneutics. Kusch's later career has been in Edinburgh, Cambridge, and Vienna.

fence of "causal internal realism" and Niiniluoto's development of "critical scientific realism" made Helsinki a well-known centre of scientific realism.

Niiniluoto's work on truthlikeness has been continued by Ilkka Kieseppä. Sami Pihlström (director of the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies) has written on the problem of realism in relation to classical and new pragmatism. Studies of Peirce's logic have been conducted by Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen (professor of Semiotics in Helsinki), and the Nordic Pragmatism Network is coordinated by scholars at the University of Helsinki.

Recent Trends

Besides the University of Helsinki, philosophy of science is part of the curriculum in the universities in Turku, Tampere, and Jyväskylä. The Philosophical Society of Finland, chaired since 1975 by Niiniluoto after Ketonen and von Wright, has actively promoted philosophy of science in many conferences and publications.

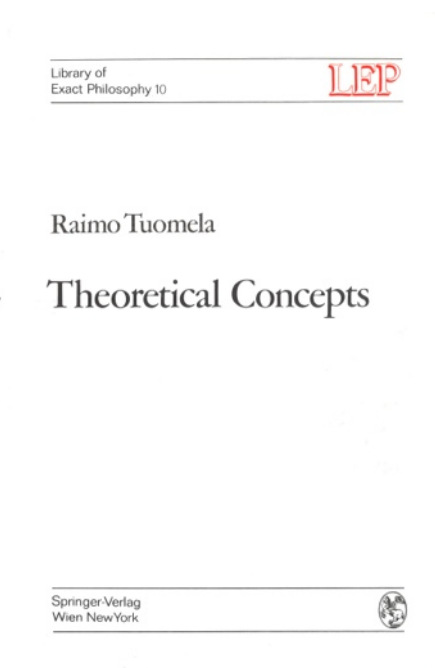
Kaila's student K. V. Laurikainen, professor of Nuclear Physics at the University of Helsinki, founded in 1988 the Finnish Society for Natural Philosophy. Laurikainen's studies on Wolfgang Pauli had partly a religious motivation, but the Society has continued an open dialogue between different special sciences.

Philosophy of physics has been studied by Pekka Lahti in Turku and

Paavo Pylkkänen in Helsinki. Pylkkänen's inspiration comes from his personal contacts with the famous quantum theorist David Bohm. Philosophy of biology has been investigated by Sintonen.

The Finnish Society for Science Studies was founded in 1985 to promote the co-operation between philosophers, sociologists, historians, and psychologists of science. Today the focus of the Society includes also technology and innovation studies. It has published the journal *Science Studies* (now *Science and Technology Studies*) since 1987. Besides the work of Niiniluoto and Timo Airaksinen (professor of Practical Philosophy in Helsinki) on the philosophy of technology, innovation processes have been studied by Reijo Miettinen in Helsinki and Antti Hautamäki in Jyväskylä. Multidisciplinary science studies have been supported by the Research Center for Knowledge, Science, Technology and Innovation Studies in Tampere (TaSTI) and the Helsinki Institute of Science and Technology Studies (HIST). Petri Ylikoski, a philosopher studying explanation and modeling in the human and social sciences, has been appointed professor of Science Studies in Helsinki in 2012.

Tuomela's student Uskali Mäki, one of the leading experts in the philosophy of economics and a defender of realism about economical theories and models, worked in Rotterdam as professor of Philosophy and Economics. Returning to Finland, he became in 2012 Tuomela's successor in Practical Philosophy and the di-



Tuomela's chair in methodology was included in 1970 in Practical Philosophy which belongs to the Faculty of the Social Sciences, while Theoretical Philosophy belongs to the Faculty of Arts. This means that philosophy of science is taught in two faculties in Helsinki. Tuomela's de-

rector of a centre of excellence in the philosophy of the social sciences, with a focus on issues of interdisciplinarity. Mäki's unit TINT (Trends and Tensions in Intellectual Integration) is an active research community which hosts the EPSA 2013 congress in Helsinki. Besides Tuomela and Ylikoski and many foreign visitors, its members include Tarja Knuuttila, who has studied the nature and role of models in various disciplines, Jaakko Kuorikoski and Aki Lehtinen, who are interested in causality and economic models.

Von Wright's studies in the logic of norms and practical inference influ-

enced Aulis Aarnio's work on the philosophy of law. Besides Tuomela, Mäki and Ylikoski, philosophy of the social sciences is studied by Eerik Lagerspetz (professor of Practical Philosophy in Turku). Kristina Rolin has investigated issues about social and feminist epistemology and the role of values in scientific research. Philosophical problems of business economics have been studied by Marja-Liisa Kakkuri-Knuuttila (professor of Philosophy of Management at the Helsinki School of Economics, now part of the Aalto University).

Ethical issues about science and technology were raised by von

Wright and Ketonen in their essays in Finnish and Swedish. Ethical problems of medicine and bioethics are studied in Turku by Juha Räikkä and Veikko Launis and in Helsinki by Airaksinen's students Heta Gylling (former Häyry) and Matti Häyry (former professor of Bioethics and Philosophy of Law at the University of Manchester, now Kakkuri – Knuuttila's successor in Aalto University).



ABOUT THE AUTHOR Ilkka Niiniluoto (b. 1946) has studied and worked in the University of Helsinki. His Master degree in 1968 was in Applied Mathematics (with a thesis on Bayesian statistics), and Ph.D. in 1974 in Theoretical Philosophy (with a dissertation on induction and scientific theories). After working in 1973-77 as associate professor of Mathematics (logic and foundations), he has been professor of Theoretical Philosophy. Niiniluoto has chaired the Philosophical Society of Finland since 1975 and edited *Acta Philosophica Fennica* since 1980. In 2003-08 he served full time as the Rector and in 2008-13 as the Chancellor of the University of Helsinki. His main works are *Is Science Progressive?* (1984), *Truthlikeness* (1987), and *Critical Scientific Realism* (1999).

Personal Website: <http://www.helsinki.fi/theoreticalphilosophy/staff/Niiniluoto.htm>

Welcome Address

Uskali Mäki

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee I warmly welcome you to EPSA13, the 4th conference of the European Philosophy of Science Association at the University of Helsinki.

The previous EPSA conferences have taken place in Madrid (2007), Amsterdam (2009), and Athens (2011). This string of meetings has been instrumental in promoting ambitious activity among European philosophers of science and those from other corners of the world. We are proud to help carry the flag forward.

The University of Helsinki was founded in 1640 and is now among the leading research universities in Europe with its 35.000 or so students. Its main campus is situated in downtown Helsinki, and its empire-style Main Building lies at the old neoclassical heart of the city, next to the Senate Square, facing the Cathedral and the Government Palace. Built in two stages, in 1832 and



in 1937, the Main Building will serve as the site of the conference. We will be using the "new side" – but don't miss a visit to the old side with views to the Senate Square!

EPSA13 is hosted by the Centre of Excellence in the Philosophy of the Social Sciences, also known as TINT. The Centre is sponsored by the Academy of Finland and the University of Helsinki. The early version of TINT was launched in 2006. Extended with the social ontology group and some other elements, it won the status as a Centre of Excel-

lence from 2012. With its over 30 researchers (presently from eight countries), TINT has become a vibrant cluster of philosophical activity. Its research focuses on themes such as interdisciplinarity, modeling, explanation, evidence, and social ontology. Its major ambition is to pursue analyses of a variety of roles that interdisciplinary relations play in the dynamics of (social and the rest of) science, and to do this in a close contact with scientific practice, so as to satisfy the desiderata of practical and societal relevance. The one-day pre-conference symposium

will provide a sample of research being done on these issues.

On top of conducting its own research, TINT has served as an organizer of several international conferences. EPSA13 is the largest of them thus far. The members of the Local Organizing Committee, drawn from the ranks of the Centre, are to be thanked for their outstanding efforts in creating the preconditions for a successful event.

A delightfully large number of paper and session proposals were submit-

ted for the consideration of the Programme Committee. The Committee has done some very hard work under the skillful guidance of the committee chairs, Stephanie Ruphy and Gerhard Schurz. Many thanks go to them and other committee members for expending their wisdom and energy in proposing an organized selection of papers. This resulted in a programme with 174 papers in 44 sessions. Together with three exciting keynote talks, they cover a rich

variety of topics in contemporary philosophy of science.

Naturally, the speakers themselves, by presenting stimulating papers and by engaging in constructive debates, will make this a rewarding and memorable meeting.

Be welcome to be enlightened and inspired!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR Uskali Mäki is Academy Professor at the University of Helsinki. He received his PhD in Philosophy from the University of Helsinki (1990). He has written extensively on the philosophy and methodology of economics and is editor of a number of books, including *The Economic World View* (2001), *Fact and Fiction in Economics* (2002), and *Handbook of the Philosophy of Economics* (2009).

Personal Website: <http://www.helsinki.fi/tint/maki/>

EPSA Women's Caucus: A Report

Kristina Rolin

The first EPSA Women's Caucus meeting took place at the EPSA 2011 conference in Athens on October 6, 2011. The lunch meeting organized by Laura Feline (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) and Kristina Rolin (University of Tampere) was attended by 35 conference participants: Laura Feline, Kristina Rolin, Julia Bursten, Emily Parke, Emma Martin, Kristen Intemann, Rose-Mary Sargent, Dunja Seselja, Kerry McKenzie, Katie Steele, Sally Riordan, Cecilia Nardini, Arianna Borrelli, Maria-Carla Galavotti, Raffaella Campaner, Sophia Efstathiou, Antigone M. Nounou, Lilia Gurova, Bettina Schmietow, Endla Lõhkivi, Paola Cantù, Antonine Nicoglou, Elisabeth Nemeth, Eleanor Knox, Vasso Kindi, Lisa Leininger, Birgil Weilguny, Sara Green, Susann Wagenknecht, Marta Bertolaso, Hanne Andersen, Nancy Nersessian, Mieke Boon, Stéphanie Ruphy, and Francesca Merlin. The organizers of the meeting were grateful to the local organizing committee and especially

Stathis Psillos for arranging a pleasant room for the meeting.

After welcoming words, Laura Feline offered an informative review of the goals and activities of the PSA Women's Caucus. Kristina Rolin (the co-chair of the program committee for EPSA 2011) reported on the work of the program committee. Kristina Rolin and Dennis Dieks had succeeded in recruiting 12 women for the program committee (which included the total of 33 members). The program committee was also pleased to recognize that two of the three invited plenary lectures were given by women philosophers (Helen Longino and Nancy Cartwright).

The discussion on the goals and organizing principles of the EPSA Women's Caucus converged on the view that the main agenda of the Caucus is to promote networking by means of organizing informal meetings at the conferences. Networking is hoped to facilitate not only collaboration but also peer mentoring among women philosophers. In order to keep the Caucus meetings accessible to graduate students, every effort is made to organize them without an extra charge for breakfast, lunch or dinner. After discuss-

ing the activities of the PSA Women's Caucus, the group members agreed that for the moment there is no need to duplicate functions such as blogs and directories. The group discussed also the many practical challenges and obstacles facing attempts to collect data on women in philosophy of science across national boundaries. In many national data bases statistics about philosophy are typically embedded in statistics about humanities. In order to achieve an accurate picture of women in philosophy of science, one would have to "hand-pick" the women in philosophy departments.

Kristina Rolin (University of Helsinki) and Sara Green (Aarhus University) were elected as the co-chair of the next Women's Caucus meeting at the EPSA 2013 conference in Helsinki. The second EPSA Women's Caucus meeting will be an evening reception hosted by Helsinki Collegium of Advanced Studies at the University of Helsinki on Friday, August 30th.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR Kristina Rolin is a University Researcher at the Finnish Centre of Excellence in the Philosophy of the Social Sciences at the University of Helsinki. She received a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Minnesota in 1996. Her main areas of research are philosophy of science and epistemology, with emphasis on social epistemology and feminist epistemology. She has been a member of the EPSA Steering Committee for 2009-11 and 2011-13, a co-chair of the Program Committee for EPSA 2011 conference in Athens, and a member of the Local Organizing Committee for EPSA 2013 in Helsinki.

Report on GWP.2013

Holger Lyre

GWP

Gesellschaft für
Wissenschaftsphilosophie



In March 2013, 11th-14th, “GWP. 2013”, the first international conference of the recently founded German Society for Philosophy of Science, the “Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftsphilosophie” (GWP), took place at the University of Hannover. Intended as a major philosophy of science meeting organized by the German community of philosophers of science, GWP.2013 simultaneously served as the inaugural conference of the GWP. The GWP was officially founded in September 2011 in Hannover as a registered association (“eingetragener Verein”). Membership to the GWP is open to anyone interested in philosophy of science as an academic discipline. The executive committee, elected at the general meeting of GWP members at GWP.2013, consists of Holger Lyre

(President), Uljana Feest (Vice President), Ulrich Krohs (Secretary), and Thomas Reydon (Treasurer).

The mission of the GWP is to better integrate the community of philosophers of science and scientists interested in philosophy of science in Germany and thereby to promote the field at a local as well as an international level. The GWP seeks to maintain fruitful and professional relations to all national and international societies in the field of philosophy of science. In this respect, GWP has also become a regular member of the EPSA. On the web, the GWP can be found under: www.wissphil.de.

As an inaugural event, GWP.2013 was very successful. The conference

was attended by more than 120 participants from Germany, other European countries and from overseas. The call for papers resulted in about 120 submissions, out of which more than 70 papers, including 7 symposia, were accepted. The members of the organizing committee were Paul Hoyningen-Huene, Dietmar Hübner, Meinard Kuhlmann, Holger Lyre, Thomas Reydon, and Torsten Wilholt. In addition, GWP.2013 hosted a satellite workshop for junior researchers and a panel discussion that concentrated on the hands-on side of the conference topic. This special event was prepared and organized by Maria Kronfeldner.

The conference was devoted to the overarching topic “How Much Phi-

losophy in the Philosophy of Science?” The main motivation for the topic was the observation that within the last decades philosophy of science has evolved into a number of autonomous subdisciplines, the disciplinary standards of which derive much more from the respective scientific disciplines on which they focus than from any core of common methodological, epistemological or metaphysical principles. From this observation the legitimate question arises as to how much philosophy there is in recent philosophy of science. It turned out that a large proportion of the presentations at GWP.2013, in one way or the other, contributed to this overall theme. The list of symposia titles also indicates the broad range of topics covered: “Ontology for and from Sci-

ences: The Ontological Analysis of Biology”, “The New Mechanical Philosophy and the Unity of Science”, “Teaching Philosophy of Science to Scientists: Challenges and Opportunities”, “The Return of the Higgs Hunters: Epistemological Perspectives on the Large Hadron Collider”, “Uncertainty in Climate Modeling”, “Formal Approaches to the Problem of Induction”, “Interventionism and Multi-Level Causation”, and “Organisms and Biological Individuals – Metaphysical and Epistemological Reflections on the Current Debate”. The conference topic was addressed in particular by the talks of the invited keynote speakers: Peter Godfrey-Smith, Stephan Hartmann, James Ladyman, Chrysostomos Mantzavinos, Margaret Morrison, and Wolfgang Spohn (regrettably,

Sandra Mitchell had to decline her talk due to illness).

A collection of selected papers devoted to the conference topic will appear as a special issue of the *Journal for General Philosophy of Science* (JGPS). GWP and JGPS envisage a closer and more sustained partnership in the next future. Finally, GWP.2013 was intended to be only the beginning of a new story: the GWP seeks to hold international conferences on a regular basis every three years. The next triennial meeting, GWP.2016, shall take place at the University of Düsseldorf in Spring 2016.

The photos in this article can be found at www.wissphil.de/conf/gwp2013/pictures.php



ABOUT THE AUTHOR Holger Lyre is Professor of Theoretical Philosophy at the University of Magdeburg, Germany, and President of the *Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftsphilosophie*. He holds a Diploma Degree in physics (University of Dortmund) and a PhD in philosophy (University of Bochum) and completed his Habilitation at the University of Bonn. He has published in general philosophy of science, philosophy of physics, philosophy of neuroscience and philosophy of mind. Personal Website: <http://www.lyre.de>

Report on Activities of the Dutch Society for the Philosophy of Science

F.A. Muller

The Dutch Society for the Philosophy of Science (DSPS; in Dutch: Nederlandse Vereniging voor Wetenschapsfilosofie, NVWF) was founded in 1979. It aims to stimulate and coordinate the philosophy of science in The Netherlands, to improve its relevance for the specific sciences and to make it accessible for a larger audience. After a first decade of flourishing, it just survived in the second decade, after which it was reanimated with a straight schedule: at least two activities each year. A standard spring or autumn session ideally is a symposium on a topic that is of societal relevance, concerns a number of disciplines and is accessible for all academics (not merely fellow philosophers of science). Every three years, starting in 1998, the spring activity is a three days conference, with the central idea to collect everybody in one place who is active in this area of philosophy in the Netherlands and Flanders (PhD-students, professors, lecturers, readers, students). The conference is intended for an academic audience

interested in philosophy of science in the broadest possible sense. The first four editions were entitled ‘Vlaams-Nederlands Congres voor Algemene en Speciale Wetenschapsfilosofie’. Since the fifth, in 2010, it is English oriented and called ‘Philosophy of Science in a Forest’, referring to the environment of the conference place (Internationale School voor Wijsbegeerte, Leusden).

In the rest of this report both activities since 2010 are enlisted:

~ 2010 ~

Philosophy of Science in a Forest 2010, May. International conference of about 2 full days, with 3 plenary speakers and about 25 refereed submitted talks, located in Leusden, International School for Philosophy.

Two afternoon symposia:

1. Utrecht, 30 January 2010: “Relaties tussen Wetenschapsfilosofie en Wetenschapsgeschiedenis” (“Relations between philosophy and history of science”).
2. Utrecht, 12 October 2010: “De informatisering van het wereldbeeld” (“The informatization of the world picture”).

~ 2011 ~

Two afternoon symposia:

1. Utrecht, 22 February 2011: “Waarom binnen een Christelijke

cultuur de natuurwetenschap wel en de menswetenschap niet tot ontwikkeling kon komen” (“Why could the natural sciences develop in a Christian culture and the human sciences could not?”).

2. Leiden, 15 August 2011: “Wetenschapsfilosofie en Literatuur” (“Philosophy of science and literature”).

~ 2012 ~

Two afternoon symposia:

1. Amsterdam, 15 June 2012: “Omwenteling in de Kenleer” (“A turn in epistemology”).
2. Amsterdam, 17 December 2012: “Wetenschappelijke Verklaring en Begrip” (“Scientific explanation and understanding”).

~ 2013 ~

Philosophy of Science in a Forest 2013, May. International conference of about 2 full days, with 3 plenary speakers and about 25 refereed submitted talks, located in Leusden, International School for Philosophy.

Two afternoon symposia:

1. Amsterdam, 13 April 2013: “Wetenschapsfilosofie en Praktijk” (“Philosophy of science and practice”).
2. forthcoming.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR F. A. Mueller works at the Philosophy Faculty of Erasmus University Rotterdam and is also researcher at Utrecht University. He received his PhD from Utrecht University. He has written extensively on the philosophy of physics.

Personal Website: <http://www.projects.science.uu.nl/igg/muller/>

A Note from the Publisher Springer

Ties Nijssen

Within the third year of publication, the European Journal for Philosophy of Science EJPS has established itself as a serious international publication venue for Philosophers of Science. Statistics show a steady stream of submissions from all continents, in total there have been submissions from over 40 different countries. This international reputation is reflected in the downloads, the graph shows that the journal attracts a global interest.



The review time of the journal remains excellent, authors who submit an article can expect a first decision within 2 to 3 months. For this the journal sends a standing ovation to all those who review for the journal. Because of its anonymity it is the most underappreciated task in journal publishing, but no quality publication could do without the time and effort you as a reviewer put in.



The proceedings of the Athens conference are in production and we have good hopes to present the volume in Helsinki, distribution to members will follow in the remainder of the year. [A description and table of content is available online.](#)



EPSA members might also be interested to learn that [the final volume of the ESF project: The Philosophy of Science in a European Perspective, is underway](#). As a note: all Springer books are available via springerlink, more information about Springer's strategy to make the books available in all formats can be found [on the Springer website](#)

I am looking forward to meet you in Helsinki, in the meanwhile do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, remarks or thoughts for Springer via email:

ties.nijssen@springer.com



ABOUT THE AUTHOR Ties Nijssen is Publishing Editor at Springer for History and Philosophy of Science & Logic.

Personal Website: <http://www.springer.com/philosophy?SGWID=0-40385-19-675410-0>