



## **Respect and Public Justification. A workshop with Gerald Gaus and Rainer Forst**

Technical University of Darmstadt  
December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011

In a tradition that goes back to Kant, equal respect for persons requires – among other things – justifying our moral demands on them. Rainer Forst argues that this entails a fundamental right to justification and a correlative duty to justify all our morally relevant actions. This leads Forst to defend a discourse theory of justice and a deliberative model of democracy. From a liberal perspective, Gerald Gaus interprets the Kantian ideal of respect as a commitment to justify a collectively binding system of social morality to free and equal moral agents. In particular, the coercive authority of the state must be publicly justified insofar as it results in limitations on freedom. These different starting points reflect on how Forst and Gaus interpret the aim and scope of public justification and understand related questions, such as the nature of reasonable pluralism, the relationship between public and private autonomy and the limits of democratic authority. This workshop is designed to address and discuss these and related themes emerging from the works of Rainer Forst and Gerald Gaus.

*For workshop registration please contact Ms Martina Dingeldein  
(dingeldein@pg.tu-darmstadt.de) by November 20<sup>th</sup> 2011.  
There is no fee but places are limited and registration is required.*

# Programme

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011**

10:00 Introduction: Prof. Peter Niesen (TU Darmstadt)

10:15 Keynote address: Prof. Gerald Gaus (University of Arizona): Conception Dependent Commitments and the Public Justification Principle.

Discussion

11:30 Coffee Break

11:45 Keynote address: Prof. Rainer Forst (University of Frankfurt am Main): The Right to Justification and the Idea of Public Reason

Discussion

13:00 Lunch

14:15 **Section 1**

Chair: Enrico Zoffoli (TU Darmstadt)

Dr. Jonathan Quong (The University of Manchester): What is the Point of Public Reason?

Dr. Maria Paola Ferretti (TU Darmstadt): Pluralism and the Limits of Human Reason.

Discussion

15:45 Coffee Break

16:00 **Section 2**

Chair: Dr. Chiara Testino (University of Eastern Piedmont).

Prof. Steffen Ganghof (University of Potsdam): Public Reason and Democracy.

Dr. Emanuela Ceva (University of Pavia): Respect and Justification through Participation.

Discussion

17:30 Conference ends



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