

Wollerau, July 15, 2008

Press Release

«cogito-Prize 2008» to Michael Esfeld: Philosophy and Physics

The board of the cogito foundation decided to award this year's «cogito-Prize», endowed with 50'000 CHF, to Professor Michael Esfeld Head of the Department of Philosophy of Lausanne University. The cogito foundation, which strives to stimulate the dialogue between researchers in the humanities and the social and natural sciences, recognizes the laureates' interdisciplinary research accomplishments.

With the «cogito-Prize 2008» Esfeld is recognized for his courage to tackle the complexities of quantum mechanics and – as one of few philosophers – to study the implications that these non-classical insights have for our understanding of nature. Esfeld sees philosophy as a modern kind of metaphysics, which is in a dual relationship with the sciences: it subordinates them with respect to epistemology yet depends critically on them for new knowledge.

The award celebration will take place at the University of Zurich on October 15, 2008.

Curriculum vitae «cogito-Prizewinner 2008» Michael Esfeld

1966	Born in Berlin (West)
1986	High-School graduation (Abitur)
1986-94	studies of philosophy and history at Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg (1986-1991), Université de Lausanne (1987/88), and Westfälische-Wilhelms-Universität Münster (PhD) (1992-1994)
1987-94	scholarship by the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes
1994	PhD-degree in philosophy at Westfälische-Wilhelms-Universität Münster (Germany), PhD-Thesis on "Mechanismus und Subjektivität in der Philosophie von Th. Hobbes" (supervisors Prof. Dr. Peter Rohs and Prof. Dr. Ludwig Siep)
since 1994	continuous teaching in epistemology, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, logic, and history of modern philosophy at ETH Zürich and the Universities of Münster, Konstanz, Hertfordshire, Cologne and Lausanne
1994-96	Postdoctoral Fellow at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zürich, research work on the philosophy of quantum theory with Prof. Hans Primas
1996-99	Visiting Scholarships in Cambridge (with Prof. Michael Redhead and Dr. Jeremy Butterfield, 1996/97), Canberra (with Prof. Philip Pettit, 1998), and Pittsburgh (with Prof. Robert Brandom, 1999)
1997-2001	Research Fellow and Privatdozent at the Department of Philosophy and Center for the Philosophy of Science, University of Konstanz
Feb. 2000	Habilitation in Konstanz, Habilitation Thesis on "Holism in Philosophy of Mind and Philosophy of Physics"
2000	summer term Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Hertfordshire
9.2000-3.2001	Heisenberg Fellow of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
2001-2002	Associate professor of epistemology, philosophy of science and logic at the University of Cologne
Since oct. 2002	Full professor of epistemology and philosophy of science at the University of Lausanne
Since 2004	Head of the Department of philosophy of Lausanne University
Since 2006	President of the College of Swiss Philosophy Professors