

Research Project

Biosemantik und Normativer Pragmatismus: Auf dem Weg zu einem einheitlichen Bild des menschlichen Geistes in der natürlichen Welt

Third-party funded project

Project title Biosemantik und Normativer Pragmatismus: Auf dem Weg zu einem einheitlichen Bild des menschlichen Geistes in der natürlichen Welt

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Human beings are a species of animals. Yet how can human thought and language be part of the natural world? Teleosemantical theories hold the promise of an integrated naturalistic theory of thought and language, especially Ruth Millikan's Biosemantics. Her account is sometimes seen to have shortcomings, when it comes to understand our rational and social practices. Robert Brandom's Normative Pragmatism provides answers to those issues. His program suffers from problems that can be solved from a biosemantical perspective. The general aim of the project is to integrate Normative Pragmatism in the perspective of Biosemantics. The focus of the subprojects will be on concepts, norms, and subjectivity. The project aims at a naturalistic understanding of those essential features of the human mind.

Keywords R.B. Brandom, Naturalism, Pragmatism, Philosophy of language, Subjectivity, Intentionality, W. Sellars, Normativity, Biosemantics, Anthropological difference, Human mind, Philosophy of mind, R.G. Millikan, Concepts

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