

EINLADUNG ZUM KOLLOQUIUM

Manuela Fernández Pinto / Anna Leuschner

(Bogotá / Wuppertal)

„Epistemic Intimidation“

Scientists investigating social and environmental problems, such as anthropogenic climate change or issues of sexism and racism have increasingly come under attack by right-wing populists. These attacks are regularly framed as nothing more than normal instances of criticism: populists invoke freedom of speech and praise the epistemic value of controversies. Indeed, the free exchange of opinions is actually essential for epistemic advancement. However, justifying such attacks on the grounds of free speech seems highly questionable.

Under this pseudo-idealistic guise, the attacks appear to be aimed more towards stifling unwanted opinions and manipulating public debates in service of certain political aims.

Our project's core aim is a clearer understanding of the systematic intimidation of scientists and how it affects scientific practice. The attacks against (individual) scientists create an atmosphere of intimidation in science that affects the dynamics of scientific advancement and, thus, epistemic progress. In order to address a hermeneutic lacuna in the philosophy of science (and beyond), the concept of epistemic intimidation will be introduced.

Manuela Fernández Pinto is Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy and the Centre for Applied Ethics at Universidad de los Andes, Colombia. In her research, she aims to understand the epistemic and social consequences of commercially-driven research today, particularly in clinical trials conducted by the pharmaceutical industry. She is now working as Mercator Fellow in a DFG project on Epistemic Intimidation with Prof. Dr. Anna Leuschner (U Wuppertal). Her research interests include social epistemology, the history and philosophy of science and engineering, research ethics, and feminist philosophy of science.

Mittwoch, 03.11.2021

16:00 Uhr

Zoom-Vortrag