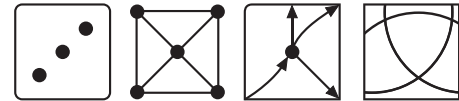


Joint event of the Research Seminar
on Foundations of Statistics and the
MCMP Colloquium on 21 July 2011



MCMP & Statistics Department

17:00 Coffee & Cake “MCMP & Statistics Department”
(Alte Statistik-Bibliothek, Ludwigstraße 33, Raum 245)

18:15 **Jan-Willem Romeijn (University of Groningen)**

Frequencies, Chances, and Undefinable Sets

(Seminarraum MCMP, Ludwigstraße 31, Raum 225)

In this talk I aim to clarify the concept of chance. The talk consists of two parts, concerning the epistemology and metaphysics of chance respectively. In the first part I consider statistical hypotheses and their role in inference. I maintain that statistical hypotheses are best explicated along frequentist lines, following the theory of von Mises. I will argue that the well-known problems for frequentism do not apply in the inferential context.

In the second part of the talk I ask what relation obtains between these frequentist hypotheses and the world. I will show that we can avoid the problem of the reference class, as well as the closely related conflict between determinism and chance, by means of a formal anti-reductionist argument: events can be assigned meaningful and non-trivial chances if they correspond to undefinable sets of events in the reducing theory.

20:15 Joint dinner at Vinorant Alter Hof (on a Dutch treat basis)

More info online: www.statistik.lmu.de/~thomas/Research/ResearchSeminar
www.philosophie.uni-muenchen.de/lehreheiten/logik_sprachphil/mcmap