

# Nietzsche's Naturalism Reconsidered

Apr. 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

The version, kind and extent of naturalism in Nietzsche's philosophy is a very lively topic in many recent debates. This is true with respect to his moral philosophy and even more so with respect to his epistemology and philosophy of science. At many occasions throughout his work Nietzsche respects the judgment of our senses and approves many of his contemporary scientific findings, in particular to reject religion and metaphysics. At times he explicitly proposes a naturalization of mankind or even develops a natural ontology of becoming and will to power. But he also argues that we never grasp nature as such, that our sensual and cognitive apparatus inevitably falsifies the phenomena, that our concepts and theories are at most useful fictions, and that science should be viewed under the optics of art. A variety of approaches has been pursued to address this apparent tension by either defending one or the other position, separating them into different phases of Nietzsche's intellectual development, or by arguing that Nietzsche could indeed defend specific versions of naturalism and falsificationism at the same time. Different solutions to this problem do have essential implications for our understanding of Nietzsche's philosophy and of naturalism alike. To reconsider Nietzsche's naturalism this workshop brings together distinguished scholars in an atmosphere of open debate.

## Friday, Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (White-Levy Room, IAS)

1<sup>st</sup> session: Chair: Jonathan Israel (IAS)

17:00-18:00: Helmut Heit (IAS / Berlin): *Nietzsche's Experimental Naturalism*

18:00-19:00: Richard Schacht (Urbana Champaign): *Nietzsche's Kind of Naturalism*

19:00: Conference Dinner

## Saturday, Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (White-Levy Room, IAS)

2<sup>nd</sup> session: Chair: Anthony Jensen (Providence)

09:00-10:00: Brian Leiter (Chicago): *Nietzsche's Naturalism Reconsidered*

10:00-11:00: Maudemarie Clark (Colgate): *Nietzsche's Naturalism and Values*

11:00-12:00: John Richardson (New York): *Nietzsche's Naturalized Values*

12:00-13:00: Lunch

3<sup>rd</sup> session: Chair: Matthew Meyer (Scranton)

13:00-14:00: Jonathan Israel (IAS): *Nietzsche and Spinoza*

14:00-15:00: R. Lanier Anderson (Stanford): *Naturalism and the Nietzschean Self*

15:00-15:30: Coffee break

4<sup>th</sup> session: Chair: Ken Gemes (Birkbeck)

15:30-16:30: Christa Davis Acampora (New York): *Nietzsche's Naturalism*

16:30-17:30: Alexander Nehamas (Princeton): *Anti-Supernaturalism*

17:30-18:30: Concluding Debate

**Attendance is free, but space is limited.**

**To register please contact Helmut Heit by email: [hheit@ias.edu](mailto:hheit@ias.edu)**

This event is organized by Dr. Helmut Heit (Member, IAS Princeton and Technische Universität Berlin), with the sponsorship of Professor Jonathan Israel of the Institute for Advanced Study. We would like to thank the Institute and the School of Historical Studies for hosting the event, and the following institutions for their support:

