**WCGE**
Wittenberg Center
for Global Ethics

**KSG** Karl Schlecht Stiftung

**sdw** Stiftung der Deutschen Wirtschaft
*Wir stiften Chancen!*

# Doctoral Program "Ethics and Responsible Leadership in Business"

## COURSE "NORMATIVE METHODS"

| | |
|---|---|
| **Lecturer** | PD Dr. Lisa Schmalzried |
| | Wittenberg Center for Global Ethics |
| **Date \| Time** | June 8, 2023 \| 09:00-17:00 |
| | June 9, 2023 \| 09:00-17:00 |
| **Location** | Wilhelm-Weber-Haus |
| | Schlossstraße 10 |
| | D-06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg |
| **Credits** | 5 (for WCGE students) |
| | 6 (for HHL students) |

**Content**

Which methods do or should researchers working in the field of normative and applied ethics use? These are the central questions of this seminar. One cannot properly address them without talking about the deeper lying question whether we can gain moral knowledge at all. And this directly leads to the metaethical epistemological debate.

So, in course of the seminar, participants will discuss different normative methods against the background of metaethical positions like, e.g., intuitionism, coherentism, and ideal observer theories. More specifically, the participants will think about the role of moral intuitions, the reflective equilibrium, and thought experiments in moral argumentations and justifications. Also, conceptual engineering in ethics will be a topic of the seminar. The seminar closes with focussing on methods of applied ethics as a special branch of normative ethics.

**Learning Objectives and Outcomes**

- Discussion of different normative methods
- Reflection on how to gain moral knowledge
- Introduction to metaethical epistemology

**Target Group**

The seminar is aimed at normative philosophers who want to reflect on their methods and at empirical researchers who want to better understand (if and) how moral knowledge can be acquired.

| **Conditions for Credit Points and Grades** | Grades will be based on two components: |
| :--- | :--- |
| | **Course participation (25%):** Preparation of seminar literature & active participation in discussions |
| | **Seminar paper (75%)**<br>• WCGE doctoral students: 1600-2200 words (including footnotes and bibliography)<br>• HHL doctoral students: 2600-3200 words (including footnotes and bibliography) |
| | Submission deadline: September 15, 2023 |
| **Literature** | The seminar literature will be distributed after the registration deadline. |
| **Registration** | Until March 15, 2023 via lisa.schmalzried@wcge.org<br>(Registering after this date might be possible upon request) |

## Timetable

**June 8, 2023**

| | |
| :--- | :--- |
| 09:00-10:30 | **How to gain moral knowledge, if possible? – Welcome & Thematic Introduction** |
| 10:30-10:45 | Coffee Break |
| 10:45-12:15 | **Intuitionism** |
| 12:15-13:30 | Lunch Breack |
| 13:30-15:00 | **Coherentism and Reflective Equilibrium** |
| 15:00-15:30 | Coffee Break |
| 15:30-17:00 | **Thought Experiments in Ethics** |

**June 9, 2023**

| | |
| :--- | :--- |
| 09:00-10:30 | **Ideal Observer Theories** |
| 10:30-10:45 | Coffee Break |
| 10:45-12:15 | **Conceptual Engineering in Ethics** |
| 12:15-13:30 | Lunch Breack |
| 13:30-15:00 | **Methods of Applied Ethics** |
| 15:00-15:30 | Coffee Break |
| 15:30-17:00 | **Empirical and Normative Approaches in Applied Ethics** |