

The background of the entire poster is a vibrant orange color. It is populated with a grid of stylized, line-art portraits of various early modern philosophers. The portraits are rendered in a light greenish-yellow hue, creating a subtle pattern behind the central text. The figures depicted include men and women with diverse hairstyles and clothing, characteristic of the 17th and 18th centuries.

**CAUSATION**

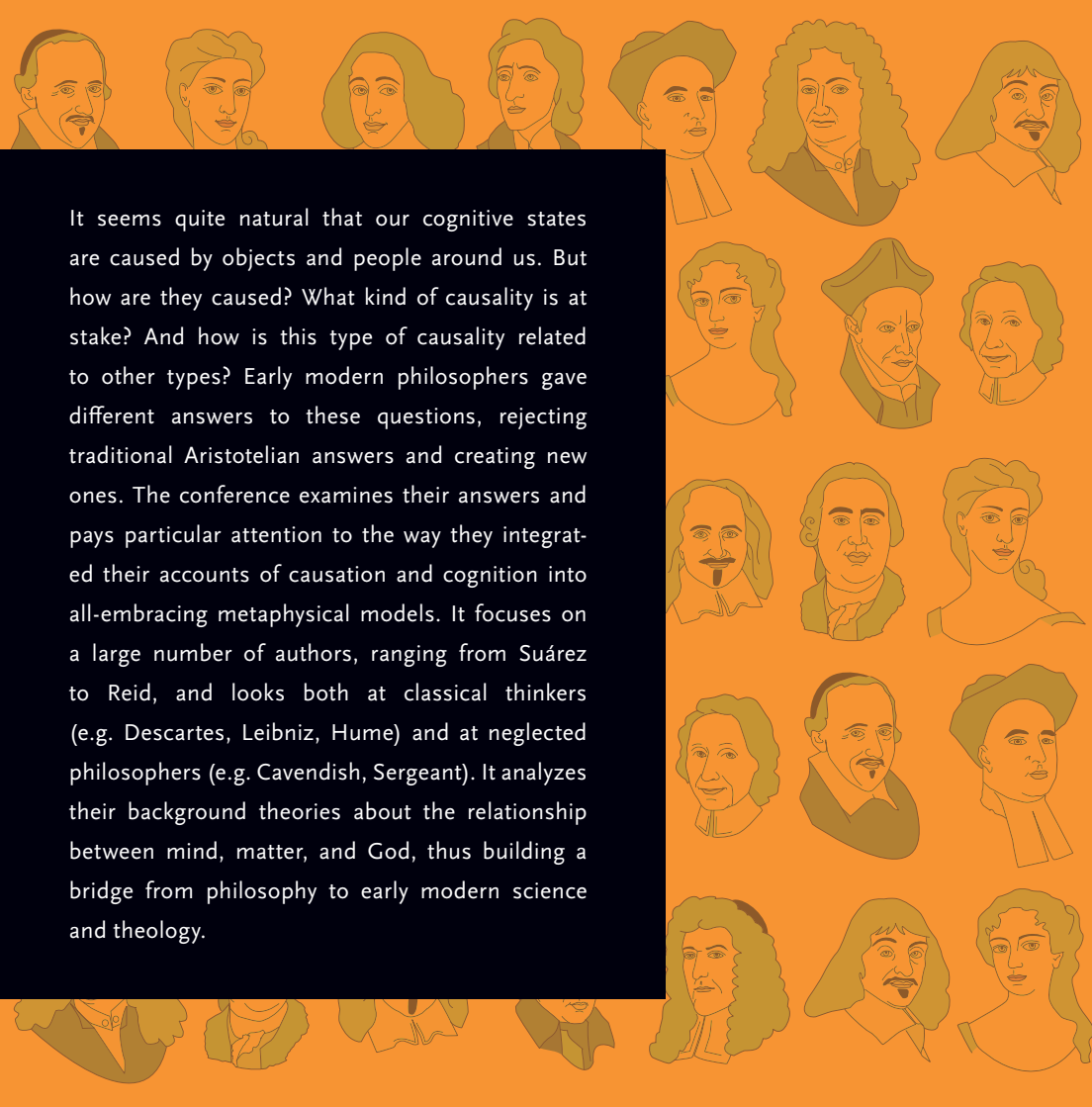
**AND**

**COGNITION**

**IN EARLY MODERN**

**PHILOSOPHY**

CONFERENCE 31 MAY–2 JUNE 2018  
HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN



It seems quite natural that our cognitive states are caused by objects and people around us. But how are they caused? What kind of causality is at stake? And how is this type of causality related to other types? Early modern philosophers gave different answers to these questions, rejecting traditional Aristotelian answers and creating new ones. The conference examines their answers and pays particular attention to the way they integrated their accounts of causation and cognition into all-embracing metaphysical models. It focuses on a large number of authors, ranging from Suárez to Reid, and looks both at classical thinkers (e.g. Descartes, Leibniz, Hume) and at neglected philosophers (e.g. Cavendish, Sergeant). It analyzes their background theories about the relationship between mind, matter, and God, thus building a bridge from philosophy to early modern science and theology.

# THURSDAY MAY 31

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 9:15  | <b>DOMINIK PERLER &amp; SEBASTIAN BENDER</b><br><i>(Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)</i><br>Introduction<br>Causation and Cognition - A Philosophical Puzzle |
| 9:45  | <b>DOMINIK PERLER</b> <i>(Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)</i><br>Suárez on Cognition and Occasional Causation   |
| 11:00 | Break   |
| 11:15 | <b>ALISON SIMMONS</b> <i>(Harvard University)</i><br>Causation and Cognition in Descartes   |
| 12:30 | Lunch   |
| 14:00 | <b>TAD SCHMALTZ</b> <i>(University of Michigan)</i><br>Causation and Cognition: La Forge and Cordemoy   |
| 15:15 | Break   |
| 15:30 | <b>SARAH HUTTON</b> <i>(University of York)</i><br>Consciousness, Unconsciousness and Final Causality:<br>Cudworth contra Descartes                         |
| 16:45 | Break   |
| 17:00 | <b>STEPHAN SCHMID</b> <i>(Universität Hamburg)</i><br>Malebranche on Human and Divine Cognition   |
| 19:30 | Dinner  |

# FRIDAY JUNE 1

9:15 DANIEL GARBER (*Princeton University*)  
MARTINE PÉCHARMAN (*CNRS, Paris*)

“For motion produceth nothing but motion”  
The Mechanical Mind in Hobbes and Spinoza

10:30 Break

10:45 MARTIN LIN (*Rutgers University*)

Causation, Explanation, and Conceptual Dependence  
in Spinoza

12:00 Lunch

13:30 JULIA JORATI (*Ohio State University*)

Embodied Cognition without Causal Interaction in Leibniz

14:45 Break

15:00 JENNIFER MARUŠIĆ (*Brandeis University*)

Locke on Causation and Cognition

16:15 Break

16:30 HAN THOMAS ADRIAENSSEN (*Rijksuniversiteit Groningen*)

John Sergeant on the Formal Cause of Cognition

19:30 Dinner

# SATURDAY JUNE 2

9:15

SEBASTIAN BENDER (*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*)

Berkeley on Causation, Cognition, and Volition

10:30

Break

10:45

PETER KAIL (*University of Oxford*)

Reason, as a Kind of Cause

12:00

Break

12:15

JAMES VAN CLEVE (*University of Southern California*)

Reid on Causation and Intentionality

13:30

Lunch

**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**  
**Topoi Building Mitte, Room 1.03**  
**Hannoversche Str. 6, 10115 Berlin**

Organization:

Sebastian Bender and Dominik Perler (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

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Program: [www.topoi.org/event/44824/](http://www.topoi.org/event/44824/)

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