

WORKSHOP 6

6. Political Normativity: Conceptual and Normative Issues

Directors:

Peter Niesen (*Darmstadt Technical University*)

Tel: +49 6151 162 142; **Fax:** +49 6151 164 602

Email: Niesen@pg.tu-darmstadt.de

Rainer Forst (*Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt/Main*)

Tel: +49 69 798 22 046; **Fax:** +49 69 798 22 155

Email: forst@em.uni-frankfurt.de

Traditionally, studies of political normativity have focussed on the character of political decisions as “collectively binding”. However, developments in political theory have put pressure on all features of Weber’s famous account. We propose to discuss the implications of this under the three headings of **scope**, **type**, and **source** of political normativity. Some recent studies have concentrated on the **scope** of political normativity, concentrating on what the relevant collective is to which political norms are to apply (all-affected- vs. all-subjected-principle (Fraser), territoriality vs. sectorality (Abromeit), moral standing vs. community membership (Benhabib)). In debating justice, both “political” and “cosmopolitical” conceptions purport to deliver norms of a politically binding character and not just moral principles (Nagel, Pogge). As to the **type** of political norms, traditional accounts have linked their binding character to the existence of credible threats. However, deliberative approaches to decision-making and studies in governance have produced understandings of political norms that are not necessarily tied to a sanctioning force (Habermas, Risse). Yet this again may blur the lines between politics and ethics. Finally, an ongoing debate concerns the **source** of validity of political norms. Philosophical authors have argued that there is one and only one source of normativity (Korsgaard), while political theory has tended to the view that admitting various co-existing sources of normativity is constitutive of political normativity (Waldron). The workshop invites contributions from political theory, both continental and analytic, with a focus on domestic or international/cosmopolitan issues.