

Workshop: Inconsistency and Scientific Pluralism

Workshop date: 8 November 2017.

Venue: Ghent University, Blandijnberg 2, Gent, Belgium.

This workshop will be devoted to connections between inconsistency toleration and scientific pluralism. Some views on the topic were analyzed in the *HumanaMente* Special Issue *Beyond Toleration? Inconsistency and Pluralism in the Empirical Sciences* (which could be downloaded here: <http://www.humanamente.eu/index.php/pages/64-issue32>). The different forms of pluralisms discussed in the issue include evidential pluralism (Parkkinen, Russo and Wallmann), methodological pluralism (Friend, 2017; Llored), and logical pluralism (Batens)

Currently, it is commonly accepted that inconsistency need not entail logical anarchy—a position departing from the classical literature of logic and philosophy of science. In line with this, it is well recognized that inconsistent scientific theories do not always have to be rejected. As a matter of fact, the presence of some inconsistencies is, and has historically been, tolerated in the sciences. The emergence of paraconsistent logics has played a central role for the study of inconsistency toleration in the sciences. Moreover, this particular phenomenon has often been linked to the development of a plurality of formal approaches, but not necessarily to logical or scientific pluralism. In fact, scientific pluralism is independent of inconsistency toleration.

Scientific pluralism is often described as “the existence or toleration of a diversity of theories, interpretations, or methodologies within science” (Dickson 2006, 42) in the absence of the assumption that a single correct approach to the scientific enterprise exists. Most of the time, many of the theories, interpretations, or methodologies endorsed by pluralists end up being mutually incompatible. Yet, pluralists have hardly paid attention to the role of contradiction in the sciences or in our philosophical understanding of scientific activities.

The purpose of this workshop is to discuss similar positions that the ones introduced in the *HumanaMente* issue. Particularly relevant for this assessment is the fact that different pluralist standpoints from logic and philosophy of science may provide novel methodological resources for identifying and analyzing the presence and tolerance of contradictions in science.

Key questions will be:

- (i) Which are the connections between scientific pluralism and inconsistency toleration?
- (ii) Do specific types of scientific pluralism entail specific types of inconsistency toleration commitments? Do particular inconsistency toleration commitments entail particular kinds of scientific pluralism?
- (iii) In which ways is it possible to characterize and understand inconsistency toleration from a pluralist perspective?
- (iv) Do the same inconsistency toleration mechanisms underlie all cases of inconsistency toleration in specific sciences?
- (v) Do all scientific disagreements involve or entail actual contradictions in scientific practice?

We welcome submissions on any topic that fits within the scope of the workshop as described above.

Those who are interested in presenting a paper should send abstracts (200-500 words) by no later than October 20, 2017, to martinezordazm@gmail.com. Notification of acceptance will be sent by October 23.

Registration 23-31 October. The registration fee of 25 euro can be paid upon arrival.

The workshop precedes the meeting “Logic in the Wild”, 9-10 November 2017, <http://www.lrr.ugent.be/logic-in-the-wild/>.

Organizing committee: Diderik Batens, Dunja Šešelja, Erik Weber, Federica Russo, Joke Meheus, María del Rosario Martínez Ordaz.