

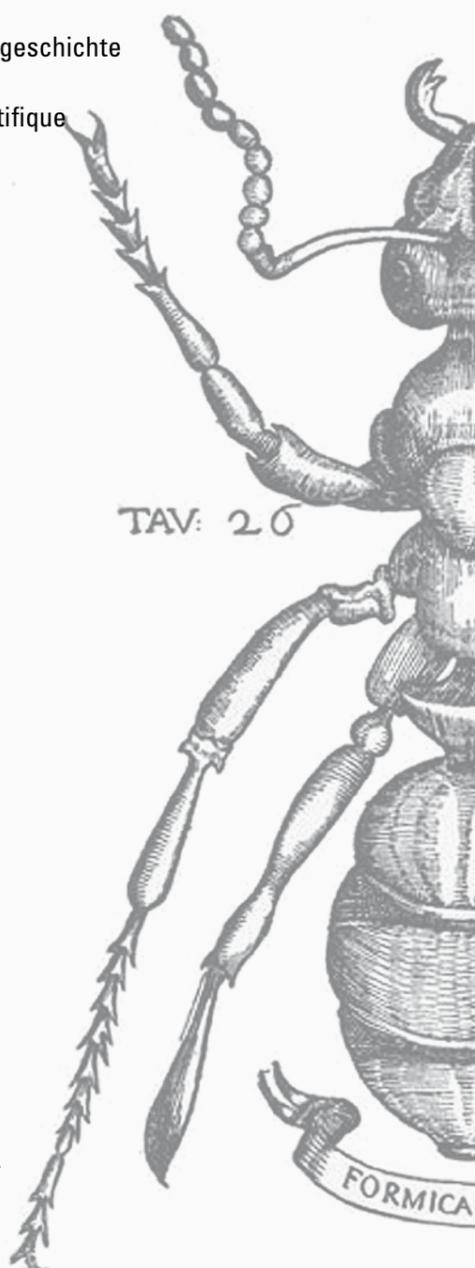
Conference organized by  
Sabine Arnaud, Estelle Ferrarese, Sandra Laugier  
Cooperation  
Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte  
Centre Marc Bloch  
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique  
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

May 22-23, 2014

Georg-Simmel-Saal  
Centre Marc Bloch  
Friedrichstrasse 191  
10117 Berlin



This event is free, no registration is needed.  
If you have any questions, please email  
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# LANGUAGE, NORMATIVITY, AND FORMS OF LIFE

May 22-23, 2014  
Berlin

## Language, Normativity, and Forms of Life

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This conference seeks to examine the normative constructions of forms of life from historical, philosophical, linguistic, and social perspectives, focusing on the linguistic practices that have shaped them. The notion of forms of life, or life forms, in its articulation of the living and the social, has been strategic in the renewal of contemporary thought. Its principal authors, who identify themselves within the tradition of Wittgenstein's and Cavell's Ordinary Language Philosophy, Foucault's Biopolitics, or Critical Theory, do not define Lebensformen as fixed concepts, rather conceive of them as being constantly produced and transformed through human practices. This view leads to a questioning of their definition and normativity. Is a form of life the form taken by our existence in language? An aggregate of forms of expression and of connections to others? A form that makes actions visible, audible, readable? A social organization of biological life?

Furthermore, is it possible to conceive of a life deprived of form that can precede and take on any possible form? If, according to Wittgenstein, form of life is a given, how can we criticize it or imagine it otherwise? How can we articulate the idea of form of life in terms of transformation and, in particular, of radical transformation? Seeing human life within language will enable us to analyze how normativity is inscribed historically and socially in these forms.

## Program

**22**

15:00 Welcome  
Sabine Arnaud, Estelle Ferrarese, Sandra Laugier

### SESSION 1

#### Normativity and Ordinary Life

Chair Sabine Arnaud  
15:10 Paola Marrati  
The Fragility of Words, the Vulnerability of Life  
15:45 Discussion  
16:00 Sandra Laugier  
Ordinary Language, Care, and Form of Life  
16:35 Discussion  
16:50 Eva Von Redeker  
The Fragility and Robustness of Practice. Towards a Social Ontology for Forms of Life  
17:25 Discussion and break

### SESSION 2

#### Humboldt Colloquium

18:00 Alice Crary and Rahel Jaeggi  
Forms of Life and Critique across Traditions  
21:15 Dinner

**23**

### SESSION 3

#### Language and/as Form-s of Life

Chair Estelle Ferrarese  
10:00 Claudia Stein  
The Sixteenth-Century French Pox: a Form of 'Life' between Language and Society  
10:35 Discussion  
10:55 Sabine Arnaud  
Language, Law, and Citizenship: The Construction of the Deaf Citizen in Nineteenth-Century France  
11:25 Discussion  
11:40 Marie Gaille  
In Quest of a Shared Moral World. Ethical Narrative in Medical Decision Context  
12:15 Discussion  
12:30 Lunch

### SESSION 4

#### Life Forms and the Given

Chair Sandra Laugier  
14:00 Albert Ogien  
Form Structure or Situation: On the Given and its Transformations  
14:35 Discussion  
15:00 Estelle Ferrarese  
Naked Life  
15:35 Discussion and break  
16:00 Jocelyn Benoist  
The Given without the Myth: Forms of Life  
16:35 Discussion  
17:00 Conclusions  
18:30 Dinner