

An Afternoon with Antti Kauppinen

15 April 2026

Rue de Saint-Ours 5, 1205 Genève, 14:15 – 15:45 (room 013)

Antti Kauppinen (Helsinki)

Fittingness and Action

It is widely agreed that emotions can be fitting in the sense of being merited or called for by their objects, or not – there's a normative difference between fearing a wolf and fearing a sparrow. But two of the most influential reductive theories of fit, which appeal to reasons for attitudes and representational accuracy, respectively, face serious challenges. I propose a new practical fit account, according to which emotions are fitting when there is a certain kind of match between their motivational content and the agent's default reasons for action. This view goes well together with attitudinalist views of emotion, though it doesn't require one. I argue that it avoids problems with the competing views and promises a number of interesting payoffs, for example regarding fittingness over time. At the same time, the account doesn't naturally generalize to conative and cognitive attitudes – but that is arguably a feature rather than a bug.