



Universität  
Zürich<sup>UZH</sup>



University of St.Gallen  
Institute for Law and Economics

# Reasons, Rationality, and Rationalism

## International Conference on Inferentialism

**Location:** University of Zürich, Rämistrasse 71, KOL-G-212

**Date:** September 10, 2025 – September 13, 2025

hybrid format

# AGENDA

**Day 1: September 10, 2025**

**Topic: Inferentialism and Reason Relations**

Time	Speaker	Description	Location
09:00-10:30	Ulf Hlobil	Conceptual Content in Reasons for Logic, incl. Discussion.	UZH KOL-G-212
10:30-11:00	-	<b>Break</b>	
11:00-12:30	Marcello Ruta	De dicto entitlement, de re entitlement, and entitlement-dissonance: An inferentialist reading to Jean Paul's notion of Ridiculous and Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit.	UZH KOL-G-212
	Shuheï Shimamura	The Social Articulation of Meaning: Why Inferentialists Should be Social Externalists.	
12:30-14:00	-	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
14:00-15:30	Luca Incurvati	Three kinds of logical expressivism.	UZH KOL-G-212

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15.30-16.00	-	<b>Break</b>	
16.00-17.30	Rea Golan	Inferentialism and Modesty.	UZH KOL-G-212
	Omar Mahmutović	Epistemological Normativism and the Expressive Limits of Inferential Logic: Between Sellars and Brandom.	
17:30-19:00	-	<b>Break</b>	
19:00-20:30	Robert Brandom	<b>Public Keynote</b>	UZH KOL-G-212
20:30	-	Reception	

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# Day 2: September 11, 2025

## Topic: Inferentialism and the Law

Time	Speaker	Description	Location
09:00-10:00	Damiano Canale	Inferentialism and Law.	UZH KOL-G-212
10:00-10:30	-	<b>Break</b>	
10:30-13:00	Joshua Nichols	Robert Brandom's Analytic Pragmatism and the Life of Legal Systems.	UZH KOL-G-212
	Thomas Bustamante	Brandom's Hegelian Model: What It Can Offer and What It Rules Out in the Legal Domain.	
	Emmanuel Voyiakis	Incomparable values in legal adjudication.	
	Karlo Gardavski	Ascriptivism and Inferentialism: Bridge between Epistemology and Law.	
13:00-14:00	-	<b>Lunch Break</b>	

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14:00-15:30	Peter Hongler	Legal Argumentation in Inferentialism.	UZH KOL-G-212
	Pedro Caballero Elbersci	Inferentialism, Intersubjective Legal Reasoning and Objectivity in Determining the Content of Legal Norms.	
15:30-16:00	-	<b>Break</b>	
16:00-17:45	Patrick Zbinden	Strategizing with an LLM: How Large Language Models Influence Logic in Business Discussions.	UZH KOL-G-212
	Jaakko Reinikainen	What makes a material inference valid?	

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# Day 3: September 12, 2025

## Topic: Inferentialism and AI

Time	Speaker	Description	Location
09:00-10:30	Ryan Simonelli	Sapience without Sentience: An Inferentialist Approach to LLMs.	UZH KOL-G-212
10:30-11:00	-	<b>Break</b>	
11:00-11:45	Kristopher Brown	Virtual double categories: a formal model of open reason relations for neurosymbolic AI.	UZH KOL-G-212
11:45-13:00	-	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
13:00-14:30	Mihai Avrigeanu	Inferentialism After the Inversion: Intelligence, Containment, and the Collapse of Representation.	UZH KOL-G-212
	Bahareh Izadi	Beyond the Imitation Game: The Failure of LLMs to Participate in the Social Practice of Giving and Asking for Reasons.	

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14:30-15:00	-	Break	
15:00-16:00	Christina Niklaus	Assessing Meaning Similarity in Text Generation: A Conceptual-Philosophical Approach.	UZH KOL-G-212
16:00-17:00	André Freitas	TBD	UZH KOL-G-212
17:00-17:30	-	Break	
17:30-19:00	Ulf Hlobil	<b>Public Keynote:</b> Artificial Intelligence and Well-Being.	UZH KOL-G-212
19:00	-	Reception	

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## Day 4: September 13, 2025

Topic: The Future of Research in Inferentialism, Law and AI.

Time	Speaker	Description	Location
9:00-12:00	TBD	Brainstorming Session and Panel Discussion.	UZH KOL-G-212

**Registration link:** <https://ile.unisg.ch/international-conference-on-inferentialism/>



# List of Speakers

**Mihai Avrigeanu** - Concordia University, Department of Philosophy.

**Robert Brandom** - Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh.

**Kristopher Brown** - Research Software Engineer, Topos Institute (Berkeley, USA).

**Thomas Bustamante** - Professor of Legal Theory, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

**Pedro Caballero Elbersci** - Full-time confirmed professor, University Iberoamericana in Mexico City, Mexico.

**Damiano Canale** – Full professor, Department of Law, Bocconi University.

**André Freitas** - Group Leader, Reasoning & Explainable AI Lab at the Department of Computer Science, University of Manchester.

**Karlo Gardavski** - PhD student, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb.

**Rea Golan** - Senior Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

**Reto Gubelmann** - PI Project AI-R & DSI PostDoc University of Zurich; Private lecturer, University of St. Gallen.

**Peter Hongler** – Professor, University of St. Gallen.

**Ulf Hlobil** – Professor, Concordia University.

**Bahareh Izadi** - Graduate student, Concordia University.

**Luca Incurvati** - Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and the Institute for Logic, Language and Computation, University of Amsterdam.

**Christina Niklaus** - Assistant Professor, Computer Science, University of St. Gallen.

**Joshua Nichols** - Associate Professor, Faculty of Law at McGill University.

**Omar Mahmutović** - Assistant, Department of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo.

**Shuhei Shimamura** - associate professor of Hiroshima University in Japan

**Ryan Simonelli** - Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Wuhan University in China.

**Jaakko Reinikainen** - PhD graduate, Tampere University, Finland.

**Marcello Ruta** – Private lecturer, Institute of Philosophy, Bern University.

**Emmanuel Voyiakis** – Professor, LSE Law School.

**Patrick Zbinden** – PhD Student, University of St. Gallen.