



Universität
Zürich^{UZH}



University of St.Gallen
Institute for Law and Economics

Reasons, Rationality, and Rationalism

International Conference on Inferentialism

Location: University of Zürich, Karl Schmid-Strasse 4

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 K02-F-152
10:30-11:00	-	Break	
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 K02-F-152
	Shuhei Shimamura	The Social Articulation of Meaning: Why Inferentialists Should be Social Externalists.	
12:30-14:00	-	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:30	Luca Incurvati	Three Kinds of Logical Expressivism.	UZH K02-F-152

15.30-16.00	-	Break	
16.00-17.30	Rea Golan	Inferentialism and Modesty.	UZH K02-F-152
	Omar Mahmutović	Epistemological Normativism and the Expressive Limits of Inferential Logic: Between Sellars and Brandom.	
17.30-18.00	-	Break	
18.00-19.30	Robert Brandom	Public Keynote: A Tune Beyond Us, Yet Ourselves: Reasons and Conceptual Realism.	UZH K02-F-152
20.00	-	Conference Dinner (for registered speakers).	

Day 2: September 11, 2025

Topic: Inferentialism and the Law

Time	Speaker	Description	Location
09:00-10:00	Damiano Canale	Institutional Reasons and the Limits of Legal Inferentialism.	UZH KOL-G-212
10:00-10:30	-	Break	
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	-	Lunch Break	

14:00-15:30	Peter Hongler	Implication Space Semantics and Legal Methodology.	UZH KOL-G-212
	Pedro Caballero Elbersci	Inferentialism, Intersubjective Legal Reasoning and Objectivity in Determining the Content of Legal Norms.	
15:30-16:00	-	Break	
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?	

Day 3: September 12, 2025

Topic: Inferentialism and AI

Time	Speaker	Description	Location
09:00-10:15	Ryan Simonelli	Sapience without Sentience: An Inferentialist Approach to LLMs.	UZH KO2-D-54
10:15-10:45	-	Break	
10:45-11:30	Kristopher Brown	Virtual Double Categories: a Formal Model of Open Reason Relations for Neurosymbolic AI.	UZH KO2-D-54
11:30-13:00	-	Lunch Break	
13:00-14:30	Mihai Avrigeanu	Inferentialism After the Inversion: Intelligence, Containment, and the Collapse of Representation.	UZH KO2-D-54
	Bahareh Izadi	Beyond the Imitation Game: The Failure of LLMs to Participate in the Social Practice of Giving and Asking for Reasons.	

14:30-15:00	-	Break	
15:00-16:00	Christina Niklaus	Assessing Meaning Similarity in Text Generation: A Conceptual-Philosophical Approach.	UZH K02-D-54
16:00-17:00	André Freitas	Do LLMs Reason (circa 2025)?	UZH K02-D-54
17:00-17:30	-	Break	
17:30-19:00	Ulf Hlobil	Public Keynote: Artificial Intelligence and Well-Being.	UZH K02-D-54
19:00	-	Reception	

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

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 - Associate Professor (Senior Lecturer) at the Department of Computer Science at the University of Manchester and a Research Group Leader at the Idiap Research Institute (Switzerland).

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, University of Bern.

Emmanuel Voyiakis – Professor, LSE Law School.

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