



# Ockham's Razor

Kevin Kelly (with Hanti Lin) – Center for Formal Epistemology (CMU Pittsburgh)

## Tutorial (7/8 Feb, 10h-12h)

Scientific theories command belief or, at least, confidence in their ability to predict what will happen in remote or novel circumstances. The justification of that trust must derive, somehow, from scientific method. And it is clear, both from the history of science and from the increasing codification and automation of the scientific method both in statistics and in machine learning, that a major component of that method is Ockham's razor, a systematic bias toward simple theories, where "simplicity" has something to do with minimizing free parameters, gratuitous entities and causes, independent principles and ad hoc explanations and with maximizing unity, testability, and explanatory power.

## Open Workshop on Simplicity in Belief Revision (10 Feb, 10h-12h)

This open workshop is to accompany the tutorial on Ockham's Razor insofar as it invites all participants to take case studies, examples, and modeling problems concerning simplicity, Ockham, or belief revision from their respective fields to the session for discussion in and with the group. Bring your stuff!

## Suggested Reading and References

Key ideas and formal explications can be found in

- Kelly, Kevin T., "Simplicity, Truth, and Probability" (2010). Department of Philosophy. Paper 369. <http://repository.cmu.edu/philosophy/369>
- Kelly, Kevin T., "Simplicity, Truth, and the Unending Game of Science" (2007). Foundations of the Formal Sciences V (Infinite Games).

## More Info Online

<http://www.philosophie.lmu.de/mcmp>

<http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/org/cfe/cfe-page.html>



Get the free mobile app at <http://gettag.mobi>

## Where and when?

Amalienstraße 73a

Room 120

Tutorial: 7 and 8 Feb '12

Workshop: 10 Feb '12

All sessions: 10h to 12h

We would like to emphasize that this event is open to students from Philosophy and other departments

More info:

[r.poellinger@lmu.de](mailto:r.poellinger@lmu.de)

or 089-2180 6171