The Moral Psychology of Admiration

A two-day workshop

14-15 September 2017, Munich Center for Ethics (MKE)
Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU)

Organizers: Alfred Archer (Tilburg) & André Grahle (LMU Munich)

Registration is free. Please email andre.grahle@lmu.de

Experiencing admiration for those who perform extraordinary acts is a natural part of everyday life. We feel admiration for heroes and saints, sports and film stars, as well as those close to us who excel in a more modest way. But what is the nature of admiration and what role does this emotion play in our lives? Despite the recent surge in philosophical interest in appraising emotions such as shame, guilt and anger, admiration has received little attention from contemporary philosophers. This stands in stark contrast to the increasing number of psychologists who are investigating admiration. This two-day workshop provides a platform for an interdisciplinary, though predominantly philosophical exploration of the moral psychology of admiration. Its aim is to shed light on the nature of admiration, how it relates to other emotions such as wonder, envy and pride and what role admiration plays in our ethical lives. As to the latter, many of the talks critically examine the alleged link between admiration, emulation, and the improvement of our characters, as well as of society as a whole.

Program

Thursday - 14th September 2017

09:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. welcome

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Antti Kauppinen (Philosophy, Tampere): Admiration, Pride, and the Self (chair: Ines Schindler)

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. coffee break

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 a.m. Sophia Vasalou (Theology, Birmingham): Wonder, Admiration, and the Moral Life (chair: Sara Protasi)
12:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. lunch break

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Sara Protasi (Philosophy, Puget Sound): Happy self-surrender and unhappy self-assertion: on admiration and envy (chair: André Grahle)

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Anne Pollok (Philosophy, South Carolina): The History of the Upward Gaze in the German Enlightenment (chair: Sophie-Grace Chappell)

3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. coffee break

4.00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. Simon Robertson (Philosophy, Cardiff): Nietzsche and Admiration (chair: Alan T. Wilson)

6.30 p.m. conference dinner

Friday, 15th September 2017

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Marguerite La Caze (Philosophy, Queensland): Judging in Times of Crisis: Wonder, Admiration, and Emulation [via Skype] (chair: Alfred Archer)

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. André Grahle (Philosophy, LMU Munich): Admiration and Social Movements (chair: Antti Kauppinen)

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. coffee break

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 a.m. Ines Schindler (Psychology, Max Planck Institute for Empirical Aesthetics): Is it always good to admire? Psychological perspectives on the promises and pitfalls of moral elevation and admiration (chair: Sophia Vasalou)

12:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. lunch break

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Sophie-Grace Chappell (Philosophy, Open University): Admiration, Emulation, and Beauty (chair: Anne Pollok)

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Alfred Archer (Philosophy, Tilburg) & Alan Thomas (Philosophy, York), Bart Engelen (Tilburg): Lord Jim: How Exemplars Can Ruin Your Life (chair: Benjamin Matheson)

3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. coffee break
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  Alan T. Wilson (Philosophy, Wake Forest): *Admiration and the Development of Moral Virtue* (chair: Simon Robertson)