

Prof. David Heyd: Conservation – for whom?

Englischer Vortrag mit anschliessender Diskussion

Dienstag, 18. Oktober 2016, 10.15 Uhr – 12.00 Uhr
im Hörsaal 101 der Alten Universität Basel
am Rheinsprung 9



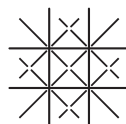
The conservation of natural entities like animal species, plants, habitats, landscapes - even the planet as a whole - has become an urgent practical issue. This talk aims at analyzing the theoretical debate about the justification of conservation policies and in particular the concept of value implied in such justification. The general thesis is that value is essentially a "person-affecting" concept and accordingly the debate about bio-conservation necessarily raises the question "for whom?". The anthropocentric character of this analysis of value does not imply an instrumental attitude to the natural environment and is compatible with the widespread view about the intrinsic value of some species, habitats and landscapes. But it denies the conceptual possibility of nature having value independently of the existence of human beings. Nevertheless, the inextinguishable human aspiration for self-transcendence constantly draws us to the ascription of value to nature from "an impersonal" point of view. For the value of our very existence as a species cannot be given meaning within a purely person-affecting conception.

Professor David Heyd is Chaim Perelman Professor of Philosophy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He was born in Jerusalem and earned his Ph.D. in philosophy at Oxford University (Wadham College).

Heyd's main areas of research are ethics, political philosophy and bioethics. He has served on many public committees on biomedical issues.



Freiwillige Akademische
Gesellschaft Basel



UNI
BASEL

