

## **“Gießener Abendgespräche Kognition und Gehirn“**

Mittwochs, 18.00 bis 20.00 Uhr, Raum F009

**13.01.2016**

*„The Emergence of Unpopular Social Norms: Moral Reasoning, Peer Influence, and Adolescents' Responses to School Bullying“*

Malte Doehne  
(LMU München / MCMP)

Bullying in schools is a group process. The presence of onlookers and how they react to the behavior of their peers establishes a complex social context in which bullying either does or does not occur. Social network analysis can capture some of this complexity and thereby frame bullying as highly context-sensitive behavior. In this talk, I synthesize findings from two studies we have recently undertaken at LMU Munich to explore the relational underpinnings of bullying in schools using social network analysis. The first study extends upon prior research to examine how differences in individual moral reasoning competence affects how adolescents respond to observed bullying among their peers. The second study examines those same individuals' positions within multiplex networks of reported social relations (of friendships, animosities, popularity, and others) to probe deeper into the relational underpinnings of aggressive behavior in classroom environments. Against the backdrop of our findings, I discuss several implications of adopting an analytical perspective that shifts the focus of enquiry from actor attributes to salient positions in networks of social relations.