

Announcement

CELLS RESEARCH SEMINAR
SUMMER SEMESTER 2026



Chiara Lisciandra, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf

Monday, May 04 2026, 10.15-11.45 s.t.

ROOM 1930.A001 (Otto-Brenner-Str. 1)

Chiara Lisciandra is a Junior Professor at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf. Her primary research interests are in general philosophy of science (models, explanations, interdisciplinary science), social philosophy (norms, game theory), and philosophy of economics (methodology of behavioral/experimental/development economics).



Literature search systems as scientific instruments

Literature search systems—such as The Web of Science, Google Scholar, and Semantic Scholar—are technologies that potentially affect core scientific activities: how scientists find, navigate, and represent previous work. Since these activities play an important role in scientific inquiry, this calls for a better understanding of how search systems work and how their working affects scientific development. This paper reconstructs the role of literature search in scientific practice and places this analysis within current work in social epistemology. It argues, first, that scientific literature works as *mediated evidence* for scientific hypotheses. Secondly, that search systems are instruments that *channel* how the literature is presented to scientists. Finally, the paper compares two types of literature networks, based respectively on citation relations and embedding similarities, in terms of the epistemic gain for retrieving relevant articles.