

The FWF Cluster of Excellence *Knowledge in Crisis* cordially invites you to

A BOOK LAUNCH

**Power and Freedom in the Space of Reasons:
Elaborating Foucault's Pragmatism**

by Tuomo Tiisala

Tuesday, 10 September, 5-7pm

Aula am Campus
University of Vienna

The author will present the book's main ideas in conversation with **Prof. Catarina Dutilh Novaes** (VU Amsterdam), **Prof. Paulina Sliwa** (University of Vienna), and **Prof. Tim Crane** (CEU), followed by an open discussion with the audience, and a reception.

In his book, Tuomo Tiisala argues that the received view of the distinction between freedom and power must be rejected because it rests on an untenable account of the discursive cognition that endows individuals with the capacity for autonomy and self-governed rationality. Drawing on pragmatist-inferentialist resources from the philosophy of language (Wittgenstein, Sellars, and Brandom), he presents a new interpretation of Michel Foucault's philosophy that is unified by his overlooked idea of "the archaeology of knowledge." As a result, the book not only explains why and how power and freedom must be entangled but also what it means ethically to pursue and gain autonomy with respect to one's own understanding.

The book is [freely available here](#) thanks to generous support from the Austrian Science Fund.

Tuomo Tiisala is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Vienna as part of *Knowledge in Crisis*. Tiisala works mainly in social and political philosophy, and the history of 20th-century philosophy, with research interests in topics that intersect with epistemology, ethics, and the philosophy of language. A former Bersoff Faculty Fellow at New York University, he has held temporary faculty positions at NYU Abu Dhabi and the University of Helsinki, as well as research fellowships at the Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought and the Center for Post-Kantian Philosophy at the University of Potsdam. His research has been supported by the Mellon Foundation and the Finnish Cultural Foundation.

Praise for *Power and Freedom in the Space of Reasons*:

"Power and Freedom in the Space of Reasons transforms our understanding of Foucault and opens up a wholly new perspective on the features of modernity he made visible. Tiisala boldly and deftly develops an account of the master idea that unifies Foucault's thought, both developmentally and thematically. The leitmotif the author discerns brings Foucault's multifarious writings into contact and conversation with the Sellarsian neopragmatist strand of contemporary Anglophone philosophy of language, freshly illuminating both currents of thought."

Robert B. Brandom, *University of Pittsburgh, USA*

"Tiisala's book is a brilliant, timely contribution to a renewed understanding of Michel Foucault's philosophical and critical project. By emphasizing the enduring relevance of the archaeology of knowledge for Foucault's problematization of the relationships between power and freedom, it compellingly reveals a pragmatist dimension in his thought. It thus masterfully shows the—still underappreciated—importance of Foucault's work for current debates in social and political philosophy, ethics, and the philosophy of language."

Daniele Lorenzini, *University of Pennsylvania, USA*