Preface

The greatest challenge to any thinker is stating the problem in a way that will allow a solution.

Bertrand Russell

This volume contains the papers that were presented at the third LSE-Bayreuth student philosophy conference, which took place at LSE on 7th and 8th May 2015. The conference was the result of a joint initiative between the Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method at the London School of Economics, and the Philosophy and Economics programme at Universität Bayreuth.

The conference brought together eight students, both undergraduates and postgraduates, as well as two keynote speakers and eight commentators from both departments. The first keynote speaker, Prof. Luc Bovens from LSE, gave a talk about the ethics of nudge, and the second, Prof. Olivier Roy, talked about the logical structure of Scanlon's contractualism. The student presentations were on equally varied topics. On the first day, we heard Somayeh Tohidi discussing Putnam's view on the reality of time, Daniel Mayerhoffer presenting some results on Schelling's checkerboard model of racial segregation, Yi Li questioning whether the unit currently used to distribute healthcare is fair to disabled people, and Franziska Poprawe debating whether the concept of rights is independent of the reasons for them. The second day began with Julia-Maria Franz exploring how family ought to be treated in political liberalism, after which Chloé de Canson presented a potential solution to the problem of old evidence in Bayesian confirmation theory. This was followed

by Geoff Keeling presenting an is-ought problem in the context of moral intuitions and evolutionary biology, and finally by Shambhavi Shankar defending Smith's solution to the Moral Problem against Brink's externalist challenge.

Both the commentaries and the Q&A sessions that followed the presentations provided an opportunity for students to further defend their arguments in the light of the fruitful comments and productive objections that were raised. The richness of the debates that took place can only show, as per Bertrand Russell, that the presenters introduced problems of such philosophical depth and interest that they sparked the audience's desire to look for a solution.

By publishing this volume, we hope, through a presentation of the outstanding work by students of LSE and UBT, to give our readers a taste of the different philosophical traditions at both universities. We also hope to encourage all LSE and UBT philosophy students to take part in this wonderful experience next year.

The Editors