

## SILFS PRIZE FOR PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE 2018

After an accurate consideration this evaluation committee has established the winner of 2018 SILFS Philosophy of Science Prize. Among the 17 proposed papers, in our opinion, the best is:

Remko Heesen, *The Necessity of Commensuration Bias in Grant Peer Review*.

The paper investigates the problem of ranking research projects in funds attribution. Normally this process is based on a numerical evaluation according to different not intercomparable criteria. Moreover the Author hypothesizes that this numerical ascription is based on an interval-based scale. Given these assumptions, Arrow's theorem about the aggregation of choices applies. This implies that if the number of projects to rank is not minor than 3, it is impossible to avoid a commensuration bias in the aggregation of the scores.

Till now the problem of bias in peer review process was faced above all from a psychological and sociological point of view. Many scholars emphasize race, gender and prestige bias in commensuration of scores provided by different criteria. Heesen's paper shows instead that from a decision theory perspective, given certain reasonable conditions, it is impossible to avoid these kinds of bias.

The result is quite general, very well argued and the presentation is clear. Last but not least, Heesen proposes plenty of new researches based on his new approach.

The Evaluation Committee for the 2018 SILFS Prize for the Philosophy of Science is composed by: Cristina Amoretti (Università di Genova), Raffaella Campaner (Università di Bologna), Gustavo Cevolani (Università di Lucca), Luisa Damiano (Università di Messina), Edoardo Datteri (Università di Milano Bicocca), Vincenzo Fano (Università di Urbino), Marco Giunti (Università di Cagliari), Federico Laudisa (Università Milano-Bicocca), Federica Russo (Universiteit van Amsterdam), Sandro Sozzo (University of Leicester), Giovanni Valente (Politecnico di Milano).