IUSS Philosophy Seminars L&PIC – Linguistics and Philosophy IUSS Center

Epistemology & Mathematics Series

21/02/2023 IUSS, Sala Del Camino, Palazzo Broletto 14.00-16.00 CET

Cristina Amoretti (University of Genova) Cognitive Biases and Heuristics in Medical Decisions

Cognitive biases and heuristics play a significant role in medical research and practice. Traditionally, they are considered universal and systematic errors in thinking that lead to incorrect judgments and decisions, such as misdiagnosis, incorrect treatment, and poor patient outcomes. After offering a brief overview of the most common ones (priming, framing, anchoring, social conformity, confirmation, and so on), I argue that cognitive biases and heuristics should not be generally judged to inevitably lead to bad medicine, at least in specific contexts or safe environments.