

Laudation of Sonja Smets

Reinhard Blutner

Dear colleagues, dear Sonja,

it is a great pleasure to award the Hermann Rudolf Lotze prize 2015 to Sonja Smets. ...

Presently, Sonja Smets is an associate professor at the Institute for Logic, Language and Computation, the University of Amsterdam.



In the early 90ies of the last century, she started her scientific career as a PhD student of Diederik Aerts (together with Liane Gabora) at Bruessels Free University. She was one of the first researchers who investigated the presence of quantum structure in the realm of cognitive science. Two of her first publications were about the development of a quantum model for the Liar paradox reasoning.



I have to admit that one of the two liar papers was the first papers I read about quantum cognition. I was deeply impressed by this kind of combining physics, logic, and cognition, and by the precision and elegance of this study. ...

The Lotze prize 2015 is given to Sonja Smets for her brilliant work on four fields of research:

1. Quantum cognition and the integration of physics and cognitive science
2. Philosophy of Physics and the Logical Foundations of Quantum Mechanics
3. Epistemology, Belief Revision and Evidential Dynamics
4. Truth Tracking, Truth Approximation and Learning Theory

On all four fields she has outstanding publications and is internationally recognized as major player in the field.

It further should be mentioned that Sonja is the leader of two projects:

1. An (European) ERC project on *The Logical Structure of Correlated Information Change*
2. A (Dutch) NWO VIDI-project on *Reasoning about Quantum Interaction*



Congratulations for the 2015 LOTZE Prize!