Introduction

The investigation of the *mind* has been one of the major concerns of our philosophical tradition and it still is a dominant subject in modern analytic philosophy as well as in science. Many philosophers in the scientific tradition want to solve the "puzzles of the mind"; but many philosophers in the very same tradition do regard these puzzles as puzzles of the *brain,* or to put it differently, they suggest we should avoid the reference to the mind altogether. So, whilst the former think of mental entities as something independent and of our speaking about them as irreducible to talk about physical entities, the latter deny that philosophy of mind has to do with anything else but the brain (or related physical entities) and thus rather want reference to mental entities to be eliminated altogether. And then there are those who think that *reduction* is the way to go: even if the language of the mental can not be translated into some language referring to physical entities only, maybe mental entities are still brain-dependent and hence reducible to physical entities in some ontological way.

This volume collects contributions comprising all those points of view. The articles originate from the 31st International Wittgenstein Symposium, August 2008, Kirchberg am Wechsel, which was devoted to *Reduction and Elimination in Philosophy and the Sciences*. We want to thank the authors for their great support, and we are confident that their work will stimulate further philosophical progress in this area of research.

Alexander Hieke & Hannes Leitgeb
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