

**WORKSHOP on Foundations for Ockham's Razor**  
*Center for Formal Epistemology, Department of Philosophy*  
*Carnegie Mellon University*  
*Organizer: Prof. Kevin Kelly, Philosophy, CMU*

The workshop on Foundations of Ockham's Razor took place at the Department of Philosophy at Carnegie Mellon University on June 22-24, 2012. Its participants included prominent philosophers, statisticians and machine learning researchers interested in Ockham's Razor principle as it relates to knowledge discovery, statistical learning and empirical inference.

The workshop presentations slides and videos have been uploaded and linked to the workshop web page at:

<http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/org/cfe/ockam-foundations.html>

During the workshop presentations and discussions, it became clear that philosophers, statisticians and machine learning researchers adopt different interpretations of inductive inference and complexity, and argue about these concepts under very different settings and assumptions.

Prof. Cherkassky summarized VC-theoretical views on these issues in his follow-up comments:

[\*\*Follow-up comments V. Cherkassky July 5, 2012\*\*](#)

His comments triggered additional lively discussions at the blogs posted by several workshop participants:

<http://errorstatistics.com/tag/cmu-ockhams-razor-conference/>

Prof. Cherkassky's final concluding remarks on the connection between VC-theory, inductive inference and philosophy of science are posted below:

[\*\*Concluding remarks V. Cherkassky July 25, 2012\*\*](#)

The workshop presentations and follow-up discussions illustrate development and progress of scientific ideas in interdisciplinary research. These conflicting views, misunderstandings and controversies reflect the difficult process of development and acceptance of new ideas in science.