Trinity 2007

Professor Robert Stalnaker (MIT)

Our Knowledge of the Internal World

Lecture Six (Wednesday 6th June): Knowing what we are thinking

The sixth lecture will bring together some of the ideas developed in the earlier lectures to try to resolve a familiar tension between externalism about mental content and the assumption that we have some kind of privileged knowledge of the contents of our own thoughts. I will look at the "slow switching" scenarios, and consider what they show about the role of propositional content in characterizing mental states. The moral I will draw is that a thorough-going externalism that rejects a doctrine of intentional foundationalism can dissolve the problem.