



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

# Oxford<sub>2012</sub> Philosophy







# WELCOME

Welcome to this fourth issue of *Oxford Philosophy*. We are pleased to have this opportunity to stay in touch with you, whether you read Philosophy as part of an undergraduate degree or you were a graduate student here.

Elsewhere in this magazine one of our new colleagues refers to Oxford as ‘the world’s leading centre of philosophy’, and another new colleague refers to our ‘exciting and vibrant philosophical community’. Oxford holds its leading position not only because good philosophers work here, but because many philosophers work here and talk to each other. The articles in this edition give some idea of the quality and the variety of philosophical activity in the Faculty and its connexions with other parts of the University and with life outside Oxford and outside the academy. In many areas (including, but not confined to, Ancient Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Applied Ethics, Philosophical Logic) Oxford has the largest, or one of the largest, concentration of experts in the world.

We are able to form these impressive research clusters because we have a large number of philosophers. We have many philosophers because we need them for undergraduate and graduate teaching. All Oxford students know that individual instruction, in tutorials or supervisions, is the distinctive feature of teaching in Oxford. These forms of teaching are labour-intensive and especially suited for teaching and learning philosophy. They are also the backbone of philosophical research and philosophical life in Oxford.

This system is expensive, and the University needs to find resources to support it. Most of our academic appointments are supported jointly by the colleges and by the central University. A recent initiative to raise money for these joint appointments is the Teaching Fund, which provides funds from the central university to match funds raised by individual colleges. We are fortunate to

have had several posts in philosophy that are now fully endowed in this way. So far Worcester, Trinity, St Anne’s, and Somerville have raised funds to qualify for matching funds from the central University. Other colleges are still raising the funds, and we hope for further successes in this area.

Oxford Philosophy has strongly influenced the development of philosophical research and education throughout the world, because students who have received an Oxford degree have become leading professional philosophers. To continue this tradition, we need funds to support graduate students. Some funds for this purpose have been raised, and recently the University has begun another matching-funds initiative, the Oxford Graduate Scholarship Matched Fund, worth up to a total of £100million. The scheme is designed to encourage new philanthropic donations for fully-funded graduate scholarships covering University and college fees and living costs. All matches will be at the ratio of 60% from the donor and 40% from the Matched Fund (subject to certain caps). Please let us know if you would like further details about the scheme.

If you come back to visit us, you will notice another recent effort to encourage our collective philosophical life. We are no longer in 10 Merton Street, and we have moved to our new home in the Radcliffe Humanities building, formerly the Radcliffe Infirmary. Both the Faculty administrative offices and the Philosophy and Theology Faculties Library are now in this handsome eighteenth-century building. We hope to benefit from the move mainly because our space in the new building includes more space for graduate students to work and to talk. This extra space should help to build up our philosophical community. If you are in Oxford, come and have a look.

**Professor Terry Irwin**  
Chair of the Philosophy Faculty Board

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Front and back cover: Images of Radcliffe Humanties, new home to the Faculty of Philosophy.



## News

### John Locke Lectures

We are delighted to announce that the next series of John Locke Lectures in Trinity Term 2013 will be given by **Ned Block** (Silver Professor of Philosophy, Psychology and Neural Science at New York University) under the title "Attention and Perception."



In 2014, the lectures will be given by **Martha Nussbaum** (Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago).



The Locke Lectures are among the world's most distinguished lecture series in philosophy. They began in 1950, funded from the bequest of Henry

Wilde and more recently through the generous support of Oxford University Press. Lectures are open to members of the public; further details about timings and locations will be posted on the Faculty's website in due course.

### Philosophy for Schools

In June 2013, Keble College will be host to *Philosophy for Schools*, organized by **Edward Harcourt** (Tutorial Fellow at Keble) and **Tim Chappell** (Open University). The last few years have seen a huge expansion in demand for philosophy in schools and colleges, whether in the context of Philosophy or of Religious Studies A and AS levels. But many schools and colleges lack the resources for specialist philosophy teaching. This intensive one-day workshop aims to address these concerns by providing post-16 philosophy teachers with the opportunity to join in dialogue with academic philosophers, to raise questions about the post-16 curriculum, and to enrich their teaching practice with unfamiliar materials and approaches.



### JOHN TEMPLETON FOUNDATION

### Two New Major Research Awards

The Faculty was recently the recipient of two major awards from the John Templeton Foundation.

#### *New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology*

John Hawthorne, Waynflete Professor of Metaphysical Philosophy, will direct a major new research project which aims to bring recent developments in epistemology to bear on topics in the philosophy of religion in a way that will open up new channels of research in religious epistemology. Valued at £1.3million, the project will include funding for five postdoctoral researchers, 22 visiting research fellowships, nine public lectures, four roundtable discussions, six workshops, and one major international conference.

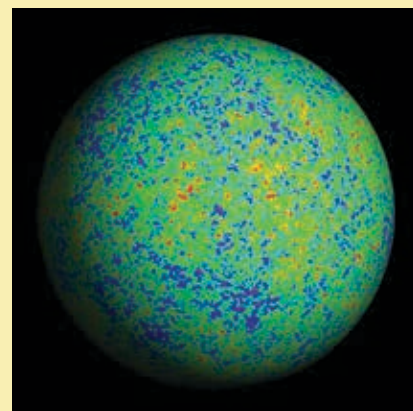
[www.newinsights.ox.ac.uk](http://www.newinsights.ox.ac.uk)



#### *Establishing the Philosophy of Cosmology*

In a new partnership between Oxford and Cambridge, researchers in physics and philosophy Simon Saunders, Joe Silk, and David Wallace at Oxford University, and John Barrow and Jeremy Butterfield at Cambridge, are to join researchers at a cluster of US universities to establish the field of philosophy of cosmology as a branch of philosophy of physics in its own right, with its own distinctive problems and motivations. The initiative will last for three years and will culminate in a major international conference.

<http://philcosmo.physics.ox.ac.uk>



## New Appointments

### Susanne Bobzien Senior Research Fellow, All Souls

We are delighted to announce that internationally distinguished philosopher, Susanne Bobzien, will re-join the Faculty in summer 2013, taking up a Senior Research Fellowship at All Souls College, one of the blue-ribbons of academic life.

Susanne did graduate work at Oxford and was a fellow at Balliol and Queen's College between 1989-2002, before moving to the

US to be Professor of Philosophy at Yale University. She is the author of *Determinism and Freedom in Stoic Philosophy* (1998) and has published numerous articles in ancient philosophy and philosophy of logic and language. Her current research projects are, in contemporary philosophy, vagueness with focus on higher-order vagueness; and in the history of philosophy, post-Aristotelian ancient logic. She also continues to be interested in determinism, freedom and moral responsibility, and in several other areas of philosophy.

“I am thrilled about returning to Oxford as a Senior Research Fellow at All Souls College, one of the finest research institutions, and about again becoming part of the world's leading centre of philosophy.”



### Jeffrey Ketland Tutorial Fellow, Pembroke

Having grown up in Birmingham, I studied physics and mathematics at Cambridge, and then philosophy and logic, first at Warwick and then LSE, where my PhD work was mostly about the applicability of mathematics and axiomatic truth theories. I have written on topics like truth, paradox, validity, incompleteness, proof, indiscernibility, structure, realism and nominalism. After positions at LSE,

Nottingham, KCL, Leeds, Cambridge, Edinburgh and Munich (Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy), I was delighted to join Pembroke College as a Tutorial Fellow, and the Faculty of Philosophy as CUF Lecturer, in September 2012.



### Ralf Bader Tutorial Fellow, Merton

After having read PPE at Teddy Hall, I did my graduate work at St Andrews and then spent the last two years as a Bersoff Assistant Professor and Faculty Fellow at New York University. My research focuses on ethics, contemporary metaphysics, Kant scholarship and political philosophy.

I am also interested in early analytic philosophy and neo-Kantian philosophy. I am thrilled about my return to Oxford and being part of its exciting and vibrant philosophical community.





## STUDY

# Two New Degrees

For the first time in nearly four decades the Philosophy Faculty has established new joint honours schools

## Philosophy, Psychology and Linguistics

In December, philosophy tutors will be interviewing candidates for a new degree course in Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics and the first PPL students will arrive in October 2013. The new course is a successor to Psychology, Philosophy and Physiology (PPP), which was Oxford's first psychology degree, beginning in 1947.

The establishment of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics as the newest Faculty within the Humanities Division presents an opportunity to enhance the successor degree to PPP, with Linguistics replacing Physiology. Psychology students will be able to include General Linguistics, Phonetics and Phonology, and Psycholinguistics in their course with Psychology options on Language Acquisition and Reading and Language: Development and Disorder. Philosophy students with a theoretical interest in language will now be able to study General Linguistics, Syntax, and Semantics alongside Philosophy of Logic and Language and Frege, Russell and Wittgenstein. The Psychology and Philosophy combination will, of course, continue as before, enhanced by the new Finals paper on Philosophy of Cognitive Science, examined for the first time this summer.

The 1950s witnessed the cognitive revolution in psychology and the beginnings of the interdisciplinary endeavour that is known as cognitive science. The six disciplines involved were psychology, philosophy, linguistics, computer science, neuroscience, and anthropology. Some commentators regard the conception of cognitive science as having taken place in September 1956, at a meeting at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

It is pleasing to think that in 2016, sixty years on from that conception, Oxford will see the first PPL students – and also the first cohort of students on the four-year course in Computer Science and Philosophy – completing their degrees.

[www.psy.ox.ac.uk/undergrad/ppl-course](http://www.psy.ox.ac.uk/undergrad/ppl-course)



## Computer Science and Philosophy

Michaelmas Term 2012 saw the first intake for our new degree in Philosophy and Computer Science. This is a three or four year course, leading either to a BA degree after three years, or a Masters degree after four years.

Computing and Philosophy are close intellectual cousins. Artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, virtual reality are fascinating areas where Computer Science and Philosophy meet. But there are also many others, since the two disciplines share a broad focus on the representation of information and rational inference. In a future where philosophical reflection about the living world – both biological and social – will be increasingly informed by computer modelling, philosophy has much to gain if some of its proponents are able to programme themselves.

The course is largely based on the Computer Science half of the "Mathematics and Computer Science" degree and the Philosophy half of the "Mathematics and Philosophy" degree. In the first year students will cover core material in both subjects, including a bridging course studying Alan Turing's pioneering work on computability and artificial intelligence. Later years will include a wide range of options, with an emphasis on courses near the interface between the two subjects. The fourth year provides the opportunity to study advanced topics and to undertake a more in-depth research project.

We expect the degree to appeal to students with broad interests and mathematical aptitude, who prefer intellectual exploration and discovery to learning of established theory. The only firm academic prerequisite for the course is study of Mathematics to A-Level (or equivalent), and we hope to attract students with broad interests, who might be studying any combination of subjects.

2012 is 100th anniversary of the birth of Alan Turing, the father of computing, and there could be no more fitting a time for the commencement of this new degree.

[www.cs.ox.ac.uk/admissions/ugrad/Computer\\_Science\\_and\\_Philosophy](http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/admissions/ugrad/Computer_Science_and_Philosophy)

## STUDY

# Philosophy for Life

Marianne Talbot introduces the range of options for studying philosophy at Oxford's Department for Continuing Education



When they are older and their minds begin to mature, their mental training can be intensified. Finally when they are no longer fit for political or military service, they can be given their head and devote all their main energies to philosophy – that is if their life on earth is to be a happy one and their final destiny after death to match their life on earth.

Plato, *The Republic* 498b

In *The Republic* Plato makes clear his belief that the study of philosophy is especially fitted to older people. As Director of Studies in Philosophy at Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education ([www.conted.ox.ac.uk](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk)) I am constantly amazed at the energy and enthusiasm that older people will put into the study of philosophy, often around the edges of senior and demanding positions. It is my job to provide as many opportunities as possible for studying philosophy informally and part-time, for fun or for credit.

Our philosophy weekend schools are particularly popular. People come from all over the country, and from abroad. Each year we run seven schools, on topics such as philosophy of physics, metaphysics in pre-Socratic philosophy, the philosophy of artificial intelligence and the nature of normativity. Each weekend consists of four lectures, given by professional philosophers, and a discussion session. There is plenty of opportunity to socialise with others interested in the subject, and with the speakers. Even more people come from abroad to our summer schools. They spend a week living in Rewley House's comfortable accommodation, taking tutorials, attending lectures and writing essays so they really get to grip with their subject as well as having time to socialise and explore Oxford.

No-one has to travel anywhere to do one of our online courses. These ten week courses attract students from all over the world. Each is based on discussions and activities to which all are expected to contribute. The discussion can get very lively and, as many students have taken all available courses, we are busy producing new ones.

For those who live near Oxford, we have a weekly class programme of approximately 35 classes throughout the year. These are held in Oxford, Reading, Newbury and Gerrard's Cross. All involve weekly 2 hour classes and the completion of an assignment.

Many Oxford philosophy postgraduates get their first teaching experience as members of OUDCE's panel of part-time tutors. This is a wonderful way to start a career in teaching philosophy because mature students are extremely motivated and unafraid to ask questions.

Many people have gone from studying philosophy informally at OUDCE to studying formally. Last year we had two new PhDs, and quite a few MAs. Our Philosophical Society has 280 members, many of whom contribute to the annual Philosophical Society Review and attend the annual Members' Day. Check out their website on: <http://oxfordphilsoc.org/>

There is no need, therefore, for an Oxford education in philosophy to end at graduation: if you still hanker after doing some philosophy come and join us!





# FAREWELL to 10 MERTON ST

After 36 years in its old home, the Philosophy Faculty moved from 10 Merton Street to the Radcliffe Infirmary in summer 2012. The story is told below.

Philosophy moved from 12 to 10 Merton Street in the summer of 1976. 10 Merton Street had been purpose-built for the History Faculty in 1954-56 (from designs by Sir Hubert Worthington, dating from 1938-9); it was soon to be adapted to our needs and quickly took on much of the shape that will be familiar to the readers of *Oxford Philosophy* who matriculated from the late 1970s onward.

The jewel in the building's crown was the Library, which under the History Faculty's residency had occupied the whole of the upper floor of 10 Merton Street, in two reading rooms. However, this proved much larger than the space needed for the lending library that the Philosophy Sub-faculty agreed to establish in order to secure the premises. So instead the Philosophy Library was restricted to the splendid reading room looking out over Merton Street and the Fellows' Garden of Merton College, and what had been the northern reading room was partitioned to provide a large seminar room – or, as it came to be called, the Lecture Room – and a stack room.

The largest room on the ground floor had been used by the History Library as a map room. It now became a seminar room. One of the first acts of the building's new Management Committee was to instruct the Curator, Justin Gosling, to write to Gilbert Ryle proposing that the room be named after him. Gosling's letter ends: "I have been asked to discover whether you have any reasonable objection?" to which he added, "If not, we shall go ahead; if so we might of course still use that name, despite the accidental resemblance to your own, but also might not." Ryle replied, "Dear Gosling, I'm delighted with the idea. I shall always be showing visitors over our new home and pausing for long enough for them to ask 'And what is this room called?'" A year or two later John Mabbott, Ryle's long time colleague and friend gave the Sub-faculty an excellent photograph he had taken of Ryle, looking up from reading Pepys in a lawn chair in his garden in Islip, which was framed and put up in the Ryle Room. Later Simon Blackburn donated a

striking photograph he had taken of Peter Strawson. These became the nucleus of a photographic pantheon of contemporary Oxford Philosophers in the Ryle Room, established by John Hyman when he was Curator of 10 Merton Street, a selection of which appeared on the back cover of *Oxford Philosophy* last year.

Even with an undergraduate lending library incorporating philosophy books from Social Studies, the Philosophy Library had no use for the basement book stacks, and the University retained them for storage. A collection of "Greek squeezes" as they were called (i.e., latex impressions of ancient Greek engraved inscriptions) were stored there, and hundreds of paintings left by University benefactor Georges van Houten. The basement stack was also used as the staging area for Ruskin School admissions portfolios, a connection that resulted in several loan exhibitions for the common room of John Newberry's wonderful watercolour views of Oxford buildings until, in the early 1990s, the walls of the common room became home to a splendid suite of engravings by Roger Vieillard interpreting passages from Descartes' *Discours de la méthode*, which came to the Philosophy Sub-faculty thanks to Peter Hacker's personal contact with the artist and which remained there until our departure (and which – like the collection of Ryle Room photographs – have moved with the Faculty to its new home on the Woodstock Road).



offices on the south side of that corridor), Philosophy by then having a desperate need for more office space.

The room directly opposite the common room originally functioned as a graduate common room, but in those early days proved redundant to the main common room, and became a photocopying room for the Sub-faculty when we finally acquired our own photocopier. The room in the basement which had housed the mimeograph machine became a computer room for graduates and academic visitors. Later the former graduate common room, then photocopier room, was divided, creating a small office for the newly established Undergraduate Studies Officer, and a small photocopier room. The graduate students were given a new room made from one quarter of the basement book stack, and this was heavily utilized.

Having initially not needed all the space in 10 Merton Street, by the mid 1990s Philosophy needed every single bit of it, and more. We were always short of space for academic visitors, and increasingly we wanted to provide work and discussion space for the philosophy graduate students. We were offered the Oxford Boys' High School, on George Street, which Social Studies was vacating, but the layout of the library space, which had been cobbled together out of the school hall, was bad, and we declined. We were then offered the old Indian Institute, but while the library space was excellent, the office space was poor and we demurred again. We then had the idea of building another floor on the building, under a mansard roof, in the development of which David Wiggins played a major role. We took a concrete proposal to the University, which came back with the estimate that it would cost £1million to build, and that they didn't have the money.

In 2005 the University foreclosed this possibility by selling 10 Merton Street, with a ten-year leaseback, to University College, which had long coveted it. We were soon engaged in an intensive process over a three year period of designing Phase 1 of a Humanities Building and Library on the Radcliffe Infirmary site, in which Philosophy, History, English, and Theology were to be housed. The project was ready to go to tender when the University suddenly decided to redeploy the money it had earmarked for this project to fill gaps in the budgets for teaching posts in the University, primarily but not only in the Humanities Division. This is still said to be a delay rather than cancellation of the project.

When it became clear that Phase 1 of the Humanities Building and Library would not be built anytime soon, the Vice-Chancellor offered the Radcliffe Infirmary, which had been earmarked for his office and that of other top University administrators, to the Humanities Division. The Radcliffe Infirmary was considerably too big for the Divisional Headquarters alone and, following a series of twists and turns, we agreed in January 2011 that the Philosophy Faculty and Library would move there in the summer of 2012. On agreeing to move, we also obtained an assurance that we will not be required to move again until the new Humanities Building materialises. We anticipate that this may be some time coming, but are delighted by our new home and in no obvious hurry to leave.

This piece is based on a longer article by Daniel Isaacson, University Lecturer in Philosophy of Mathematics and Fellow of Wolfson College, which can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/9hdzf67>





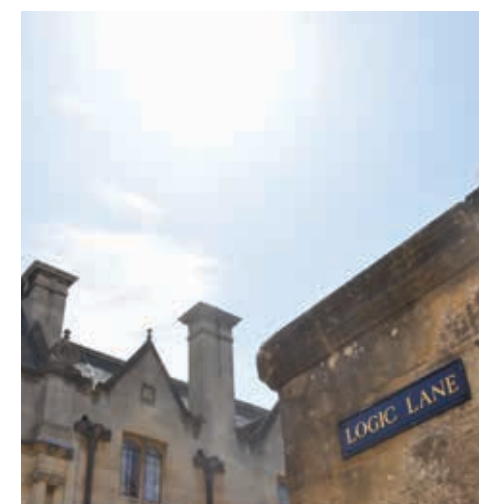
## An Undergraduate View

Situated moments from every first year philosopher's most hated road, Logic Lane, the Philosophy Faculty managed to provide a relaxing retreat from the fast paced, stressful, day-to-day life of an Oxford student. A traditionally picturesque Oxford building, the Philosophy Faculty was in the perfect place; right behind the lectures in Exam Schools and opposite Christ Church meadows where thoughts could be collected in the lush open spaces whilst on a soothing solitary stroll.

It seems apt that 10 Merton Street was not referred to as 'The Philosophy Library'. Whilst serving the functions of a place where books could be borrowed – it soon became so much more to those who knew and loved it. In fact, 'The Philosophy Family' would seem a more appropriate name. Librarians said 'hi' and were up for a chat, whilst the oval room provided a dinner table-like environment for studying. From undergraduates to the mythical creatures of All Souls, the common room served as a

comfortable place for anyone to talk, grab a 20p cup of coffee, and have a browse through the day's newspapers. In Trinity Term, the Faculty became even more inviting due to its homely garden. There the few benches for reading and philosophising took you away far from any reminder of *The Logic Manual* to the intellectual corners of a summer's day. Aristotle, Plato, and John Stuart Mill would have loved it.

Emily Cousens (3rd year PPE)



### 10 Merton Street

10 Merton Street,  
adjacent to Logic Lane,  
whence Quine  
in 1953  
presided over the Association of Symbolic Logic.

Inside, a room after Ryle:  
'the brilliant and benevolent leader of Oxford philosophy';  
the lights on the walls.  
Much to follow when sitting,  
occasionally scratching;  
Words and thoughts  
(on a good day)  
in flow.

Upstairs: books, light, space.  
After five comes the roar  
on summer afternoons, sixth 'til eighth.  
The speaker stops, bemused. Local rituals will endure.

Anon



## Essay

# Oxford and British Idealism



Bill Mander

That Oxford has a pre-eminent tradition in philosophy few could deny, and in illustration thoughts might turn to the later middle ages (to Duns Scotus, William of Ockham and John Wycliffe) or the seventeenth century (to John Locke, Robert Boyle, and John Norris) or more recently the 'ordinary language' tradition of the last century (to J.L. Austin, Gilbert Ryle and Peter Strawson). Few, however, would think of the late Victorian era – 1870s and 1880s – and yet this period was arguably the highest watermark in Oxford's philosophical reputation, a time when virtually all the most able philosophers in the country were Oxford trained.

The reasons why this time of great renown has been largely forgotten are not hard to find, for the Edwardian mind reacted harshly against the age that came before it and perhaps nowhere more so than in philosophy, where a new school of thinking arose – within whose shadow the modern discipline still falls – which so defined itself in opposition to its predecessors as to virtually erase them from memory. But this amnesia is to be regretted, not least because the philosophy which Oxford advanced at that time was one with wide and practical appeal, a vital counter example to the perennial accusation that philosophy is an essentially narrow, technical and impractical pursuit.

The chief figure of this movement was T.H. Green, who first entered Balliol as a student in 1855, becoming a Fellow in 1860. Encouraged by Jowett, he made use of Kantian and Hegelian ideas, which until that point had largely been ignored as 'dangerous,' developing an idealist world view in which God, or as he called it the 'eternal consciousness,' was to be thought of as a principle immanent throughout reality and, in particular, gradually manifesting itself in the process of human

development, both intellectual and moral. In this light the individual could be understood only as part of a larger social whole, and society itself as an organism properly aiming at the 'common good'.

Elected to the Whites Chair of Moral Philosophy in 1878, Green died of blood poisoning in 1882 at the relatively young age of 46, yet in his short career he exerted an immense influence. Bernard Bosanquet, R.L. Nettleship, William Wallace, F.H. Bradley, A.C. Bradley, John MacCunn, D.G. Ritchie, J.H. Muirhead, Arnold Toynbee, H.H. Joachim were all pupils of his; and this small knot of Oxford philosophers – the School of Green as it was often called – between themselves dominated the philosophical scene for some thirty years.

One of the most interesting aspects to this story is that while Green's influence was immense, it was transmitted not through his writings – which were few, difficult and nearly all posthumous – but rather through his teaching and the force of his character. Indeed, the University and the wider city itself took Green to its heart as it has perhaps no other of its academics, and on the day of his funeral the Mayor and Corporation, together with two thousand people, processed (through torrential rain) from the council chambers to Balliol and thence to St Sepulchre's Cemetery on Walton Street where he was buried. A moral

philosophy prize was set up in his memory which, now in the form of a scholarship for graduates working in ethics, the Philosophy Faculty continues to administer to this day.

Though opting in the end for the life of an academic, it is significant that the alternative occupation which Green considered was that of a dissenting minister, for throughout his career his concerns never ventured far from those that might in the broadest sense be called 'religious'. His position was never orthodox, however; indeed his motivation was to find a form of belief that could preserve what was of value in religion without compromising the rational conclusions to which he felt that modern science, scholarship and philosophy pointed.

The institution of the lay sermon – the metaphysically uplifting and morally motivating address – to which several of the Idealists were attached, illustrates clearly both how the

religious impulse was linked to an ethic of practical involvement, and how philosophy was as often preached as it was taught. "The school of Green (wrote the philosopher R.G. Collingwood) sent out into public life a stream of ex-pupils who carried with them the conviction that philosophy, and in particular the philosophy they had learned at Oxford, was an important thing, and that their vocation was to put it into practice.... Through this effect on the minds of its pupils, the philosophy of Green's school might be found, from about 1880 to about 1910, penetrating and fertilizing every part of the national life" (*An Autobiography*, p.17).

Green's conviction that it was not enough to think but that one must also act, inspired his followers, such as the young Arnold Toynbee who went to live and work with the poor in the East End of London, with such zeal as to lead him to an early death and give the movement its first 'martyr.' And when, in 1883 Samuel Barnett gave a lecture at St John's College entitled 'Settlements of University Men in Great Towns' in which he suggested that the lives of the poor might be helped by the setting up in the inner cities communes of university

educated men dedicated to the service and education of those less fortunate than they, this was a suggestion that appealed to many who had heard Green's message; the call resulting in the establishment in 1884 of just such a settlement in Whitechapel, East London, named Toynbee Hall, after Green's pupil who had died the previous year.

Through its association with Green, Balliol became the very heart of the British Idealist movement, a position cemented by its election in 1893 of the philosopher Edward Caird as the new Master (in succession to Jowett) a position he held until 1907. Caird had himself been a student at Balliol, shortly after Green with whom he was a close friend and philosophical confrere, and then briefly a fellow at Merton before returning home to Glasgow, so his appointment was very much a continuation of the Oxford Idealist tradition. Certainly Caird maintained and developed Green's ethic of social service, but while his own inspiring *Lay Sermons* no doubt sent a

generation of students out on their way to public service both in this country and in the various corners of Britain's empire, no more than Green was Caird a conservative spokesperson for the status quo. He was, for example, an outspoken critic of both the Boer War and the University's conferment of an honorary degree upon Cecil Rhodes, making public his dissent from the establishment in the pages of *The Times*.

Bill Mander is Fellow of Harris Manchester College. He is the author of *An Introduction to Bradley's Metaphysics* (1993) and *British Idealism, A History* (2011).





## Essay

# Ready for Deconstruction?

Stephen Mulhall discusses and questions the basis for the division between 'analytic' and 'Continental' Philosophy

For most of the 20th century, philosophy departments in the English-speaking world appeared to believe that they had to choose between two very different traditions or approaches to the subject, called the 'analytic' and the 'Continental', with most choosing to see themselves as 'analytic'. And yet, a moment's examination of these labels is enough to raise suspicions about the usefulness of this division. For they define one approach in terms of allegiance to a certain method (that of analysis of language), and the other in terms of a geographical location: Bernard Williams compared this to an attempt to divide all cars into front-wheel drive and Japanese. This peculiar cross-categorization also obscures the fact that many of the most influential members of the 'analytic' tradition came from Continental Europe. How could such a patently misbegotten dichotomy have taken on such powerful institutional and cultural life?

The 'analytic' tradition took off at the end of the nineteenth century in Cambridge from revolutionary developments in logical theory initiated by Frege and Russell, which were then applied (with the help of G.E. Moore and Wittgenstein) to the field of philosophy. These philosophers believed that their new analytical tools not only provided a better understanding of the nature of valid inference, but also revealed the fundamental structure of language and thought; and this in turn revealed that perennial philosophical problems about the nature of reality were confusions based on a misunderstanding of our means of representing that reality.

Wittgenstein's version of these ideas, presented in the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (1921), led a group of philosophers calling themselves the Vienna Circle to create the movement known as 'logical positivism'. They held that a proposition could be meaningful only if it were possible in principle to verify it (and so to falsify it). The propositions of natural science passed this test, and the propositions of mathematics and logic were also acceptable since they articulated analytic truths (that is, they were true by virtue of the meanings of their constituent terms); but all other kinds of proposition failed it and so were condemned as meaningless. This condemnation included

not only the evaluative propositions of religion, ethics, politics and aesthetics, but also the metaphysical propositions and projects of the Western philosophical tradition. So philosophy could justify its own continued existence only by restricting itself to winnowing out the meaningless from the meaningful, and analysing in further detail the logical structure of scientific propositions.

Political developments in Europe during the 1930s led many of the leading logical positivists to flee to America, thereby embedding their version of analytic philosophy into this new cultural context, just as Wittgenstein began to criticise the presuppositions of the *Tractatus* and develop a wholly new way of engaging in philosophical inquiry. In his later work, epitomised in the posthumously published *Philosophical Investigations* (1953), he regarded philosophical clarity (whether about language or about whatever language might itself be about) as something to be attained by means of a careful description of our ordinary practices of employing words. Wittgenstein's later work in this way seemed to dovetail with that of J.L. Austin in Oxford, and brought about the brief hegemony of what became known as 'ordinary language philosophy'. Its dominance was ultimately ended by the importation from America (in the 1960s and 1970s) of arguments and ideas associated with Quine and Davidson, ideas that were themselves both developments of and critical reactions to the earlier American importation of logical positivism, and that put in question any attempt sharply to distinguish the normative structure of language from its empirical content – a distinction without which it appeared that neither logical positivism nor ordinary language philosophy could continue to defend its methods. And at this point, 'analytic' philosophy began to fragment into a diverse array of different projects.

The story of 'analytic' philosophy is relatively easy to summarize (however crudely) because it makes sense to regard it as a distinctive school or movement – a collective enterprise held together by shared commitments to certain methods and doctrines which developed over time, but only within certain limits. But no such story can be told of 'Continental philosophy', because that label

“ The day when we can write philosophy as if the division between 'analytic' and 'Continental' no longer has any institutional purchase is now a more realistic aspiration. ”

was used to denote all the major philosophical schools or movements that held sway in the continent of Europe (primarily in Germany and France) from the death of Kant (at the beginning of the nineteenth century) to the present day. It thus includes German Idealism (especially Hegel), Marxism, Nietzsche, Existentialism (from Kierkegaard to Sartre and Camus), Phenomenology (from Husserl to Heidegger, Sartre and Merleau-Ponty), Critical Theory (especially the work of Adorno, Horkheimer and Habermas), Deconstruction (Derrida), and so on. 'Analytic' philosophy could usefully be compared with any one of these schools or movements, each of which is held together by certain shared commitments; but it makes no sense at all to compare it with all of them – as if there were some set of commitments that every one of them shared.

So it's not at all surprising that 'Continental' philosophers never identified themselves as such; rather like the idea of a 'Continental breakfast', the idea of 'Continental' philosophy is one used primarily by those outside the cultures to whose products it refers. It is, in short, essentially an invention of 'analytic' philosophers, and applies to anything and everything in the post-Kantian philosophical scene that is not 'analytic' philosophy (including those few British and American philosophy departments who stubbornly maintained a 'Continental' allegiance). Since Moore and Russell's founding of 'analytic' philosophy had involved them in a campaign against versions of Hegelian Idealism which had controlled the academic high ground in Oxford and Cambridge for decades, sensitivity to 'Continental' influences was always likely to linger. And it's true that many 'Continental' philosophers did (although each in different ways) reject commitments central to the 'analytic' tradition – by questioning the priority of logical analysis, by pursuing avowedly metaphysical (and so purportedly meaningless) projects or taking them seriously enough to engage in critical dialogue with them (and so presenting the history of the subject as an essential context for its current work), or by aligning philosophy more with the humanities and social theory than with the natural sciences.

In that sense, there is a minimal (although essentially negative) descriptive content

to the idea of 'Continental' philosophy. But it was never really a purely descriptive category; anyone trained (as I was) within the philosophical culture that deployed it knew that it was a term of disapprobation, and at the limit a term of abuse. For it tended to be assumed (and not always without justification, or at least provocation) that 'Continental' philosophers not only did not do philosophy 'our' way, they did it in such a way as to threaten the integrity of the subject: their querying of the significance of logical theory was taken as a rejection of rational standards, and their willingness to speak metaphysically was taken as a willing embrace of obfuscation and nonsense. 'Continental' philosophy was thus a kind of anti-philosophy, what Plato would have called 'sophistry'. Little wonder that passions were so deeply stirred not long ago, when Cambridge University proposed to award an honorary degree to Derrida, and many of the members of the Philosophy Faculty there led a campaign against it.

Nowadays, passions run less high. Anglo-American philosophy retains a real concern for plainness, rigour and clarity of expression; but it is far more aware of the historical specificity of its 'analytic' influences and so far more likely to question that movement's basic commitments – with the result that work in moral and political philosophy is flourishing, metaphysics is once more an intellectually serious enterprise, and a plurality of methods is evident. As a result, a generation of Anglo-American philosophers has emerged whose members find it easier to draw useful ideas and approaches from the various 'Continental' traditions without either feeling (or risking accusations) that they have betrayed their calling. The day when we can write philosophy as if the division between 'analytic' and 'Continental' no longer has any institutional purchase is certainly not yet here; but at least it is now a rather more realistic aspiration.

Stephen Mulhall is Professor of Philosophy and Fellow of New College. His publications include: *Heidegger and Being and Time* (1996), *Wittgenstein's Private Language* (2006), and *The Wounded Animal: J.M. Coetzee and the Difficulty of Reality* (2009).



## Obituary



# Michael Dummett 1925-2011

Sir Michael Dummett, who died last year aged 86, was one of the greatest British philosophers of the 20th century. He was also an international authority on tarot cards, a campaigner for racial justice, and a devoted family man.

Michael Dummett was a staunch advocate of “analytic” philosophy, the fundamental tenet of which he took to be that “the philosophy of language is the foundation of all other philosophy”. He also once characterised it as “post-Fregean philosophy”, the 19th-century German philosopher Gottlob Frege having done as much as anyone to treat the philosophy of language in this way. Much of Dummett’s own work was accordingly devoted to the interpretation and exposition of Frege’s ideas, and he will be as well remembered for his exegesis of Frege as he will for his own seminal contributions to analytic philosophy.

Frege held that the way in which the words in a sentence combine reflects the structure of the thought that the sentence expresses. In the sentence “Michael smokes,” a proper name combines with a verb so as to express the thought that a particular person, Michael, indulges in a particular activity, smoking. This thought is true if Michael does in fact smoke, and false otherwise.

On this apparently innocuous and simple basis, Frege erected an elaborate set of ideas that have had an immense influence. Nevertheless, Dummett believed that Frege made certain assumptions concerning truth and falsehood that could be called into question. Frege allowed for the possibility of a thought that was neither true nor false. An example would be the thought that Father Christmas smokes. Given that there is no such person as Father Christmas, then neither is there anything to make this thought true or false. But Frege was not in the least reluctant to admit that a thought could be true or false without our having any way of telling which. An example might be the thought that Plato would have enjoyed smoking. This is what caused Dummett to pause.

He did not see how we could understand a sentence without having some way of manifesting our understanding. And he did not see how we could manifest this without being able to tell whether the thought expressed was true or false. So the assumption that a given thought could be true or false even though we had no way of telling which – an assumption that Dummett called “realism” concerning the thought – was immediately problematical.

Not that Dummett flatly denied this assumption; his point was only that it needed justification. He was issuing a challenge. Although the challenge was something close to a lifelong crusade, he undoubtedly retained a sympathy for realism. It was as if he was engaged in a continual internal struggle with himself. Furthermore, it is hard to escape the feeling that this in turn had something to do with his deep religious convictions, many of which may well have had a realist cast which the philosopher in him found problematical.

It is certainly true that, although he rarely made explicit contributions to the philosophy of religion, what he did write was often motivated by religious concerns. One topic about which he wrote a great deal, for example, was the possibility of backward causation. Certainly, his interest in this derived from an interest in the efficacy of retrospective prayer.

No one who witnessed Dummett engage in debate could fail to be struck by the passion with which he upheld his philosophical views. Nor could anyone who came into professional contact with him fail to be struck by the passion with which he defended all that was precious to him in academia. In 1984, for example, he resigned from the British Academy, partly because of his belief that it had failed in its duty to defend universities against funding cuts.

Indeed, Dummett seemed to be constitutionally incapable of undertaking anything half-heartedly. Not only was similar commitment manifest in the way he lived out his Christianity (he converted to Catholicism when he was a young man) and in the tireless way in which he opposed racism in all its forms, there was even evidence of it in his recreational interest in the history of card games.

Dummett was uncompromising in his convictions. This often led to bruising encounters with opponents. But although his opposition to another person’s views could occasionally spill over into opposition to that other person, his sole motivation was a desire to see truth prevail.

He also took great pleasure in the good things in life, and had a wonderfully infectious sense of humour. He was always a generous and inspirational teacher. He never lectured twice on exactly the same material, preferring to maintain as much freshness as possible in his delivery. It was impossible to hear him lecture and not to have a profound sense of thought in action. He would pace up and down, cigarette in hand, pausing periodically to formulate in his own mind how best to proceed, referring only occasionally, if at all, to his notes. The upshot would always be a beautifully structured and wonderfully conceived argument in which ideas about the most abstract topics were seamlessly woven together.

In supervisions with his graduate students, he was similarly intent on the issues, but with an additional determination to see what his students were getting at. He inspired not only great philosophy but great affection.

Born in London, Dummett was educated at Sandroyd school in Wiltshire; Winchester College; and Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated with a first in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics in 1950, having served in the Royal Artillery and Intelligence Corps in India and Malaya from 1943 to 1947. Upon graduating, he was elected to a fellowship at All Souls, Oxford. He remained there until 1979, when he was elected to the Wykeham Professorship of Logic and a fellowship at New College. He retired in 1992. He received the Lakatos award in the philosophy of science in 1994, was awarded the Rolf Schock prize for logic and philosophy in 1995, was knighted in 1999, and was awarded the Lauener prize for an outstanding oeuvre in analytical philosophy in 2010.

Throughout his career he held numerous additional academic posts, including a Readership in the Philosophy of Mathematics at Oxford and various visiting positions

at universities around the world. He gave several of the most prestigious lecture series in philosophy, including the William James lectures at Harvard University in 1976 and the Dewey lectures at Columbia University in 2002. He was elected a fellow of the British Academy in 1968, later settling his differences and being re-elected in 1995. In 1966 he chaired the Oxford Committee for Racial Integration, of which he had been a founder member the previous year. In 1966–67 he was a member of the executive committee of the Campaign Against Racial Discrimination, and in 1970–71 chairman of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants.

His first major publication, *Frege: Philosophy of Language* (1973), appeared when he was at the comparatively ripe age of 48. One reason why it had not appeared earlier was that he had made a conscious decision to pursue what he conceived as his duty to oppose the racism that had become manifest in Britain. He completed the book when he reluctantly concluded that he no longer had any significant contribution to make to the fight and felt justified in returning to “more abstract matters of much less importance to anyone’s happiness or future”. He commented in the book’s preface on the deep shock of having discovered, some years previously, that Frege himself, whom he had always revered “as an absolutely rational man”, was a virulent racist. “From [this discovery],” he wrote, “I learned something about human beings which I should be sorry not to know; perhaps something about Europe, also.” Several other books on Frege followed: *The Interpretation of Frege’s Philosophy* (1981), a defence of the main ideas of the earlier book; *Frege and Other Philosophers* (1991), a collection of essays; and *Frege: Philosophy of Mathematics* (1993), the long-awaited sequel to the first book, which Dummett had originally intended to publish along with it as a single volume.

He also wrote *Elements of Intuitionism* (1977), on the intuitionist school in logic and mathematics; *The Logical Basis of Metaphysics* (1991), a systematic statement of his own most basic ideas; *The Origins of Analytic Philosophy* (1993), in which he emphasised the significance of Frege to the analytic movement; *Truth and the Past* (2004), in which he applied some of his basic ideas to claims that we make about the past; *Thought and Reality* (2006), in which he set out his views about anti-realism; and *The Nature and Future of Philosophy* (2010), in which he gave a succinct account of his conception of his discipline.

Many of his numerous articles were anthologised in *Truth and Other Enigmas* (1978) and *The Seas of Language* (1993). The reverence with which he approached Frege’s ideas, and the irritation and puzzlement with which he often approached the ideas of other philosophers, prompted one reviewer of the collection *Frege and Other Philosophers* to remark that Dummett seemed to regard the parallel between the title of that collection and the earlier collection *Truth and Other Enigmas* “as more than just a parallel”.

With his family, Lady Ann Dummett passed away in February 2012. A joint memorial service was held in New College Chapel in June 2012.

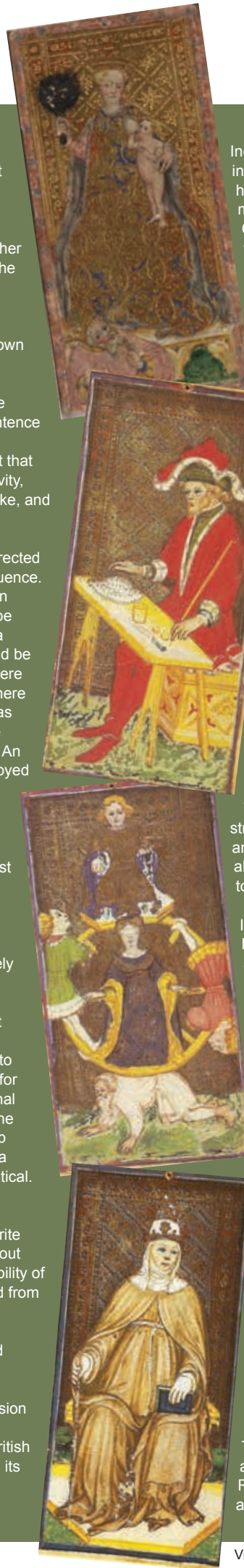


Dummett’s many non-philosophical publications included books on immigration, Catholicism, tarot cards, and voting procedures (he devised the Quota Borda system of voting), as well as *Grammar and Style for Examination Candidates and Others* (1993), the culmination of his relentless fight against low standards of literacy. That fight occasionally found amusing expression in his other work. His last book on Frege included a delicious footnote in which, having forestalled a possible misunderstanding of one of the sentences in the main text, he went on to lament the fact that the only reason for the note was that few writers or publishers nowadays “evinced a grasp of the distinction between a gerund and a participle”. He continued, with characteristic tetchiness: “People frequently remark that they see no point in observing grammatical rules, so long as they convey their meaning. This is like saying that there is nothing wrong with using a razor blade to cut string, so long as the string is cut. By violating the rules, they make it difficult for others to express their meaning without ambiguity.”

Some readers of Dummett would say that it was ironic that he was so preoccupied with style, since his own prose left much to be desired. It is true that his sentences often displayed a rather unwieldy complexity. But they also displayed an acute sensitivity to the structure of the thoughts that they were intended to convey; and that fact, combined with the precision with which Dummett chose his words, meant that there was a real clarity about his writing, however lacking it might have been in facility. The writing was in some respects like the man – marked by honesty and integrity, though it could at times be difficult.

Michael Anthony Eardley Dummett, philosopher, born 27 June 1925; died 27 December 2011

A. W. Moore, Professor of Philosophy and Fellow of St Hugh’s College (by permission of *The Guardian*)



Visconti-Sforza Tarot Cards



# Transatlantic Tributes

Shortly after his death the *New York Times* blog, *Opinionator*, ran a series of reflections on Dummett’s life and work assembled by Professors Ernie Lepore of Rutgers University and Simon Critchley of The New School. We reprint a sample below.

## A Half Century Hilary Putnam

Professor Emeritus, Harvard University

I met Michael Dummett in 1960, when I elected to spend the first months of some leave at Oxford. That was the beginning of a friendship that lasted more than 50 years, and the news of his death was devastating. At the beginning we differed strongly in philosophy (I began my stay at Oxford by giving a lecture titled “Do True Sentences Correspond to Reality” that was about as far from Dummettian views as it is possible to go); later, when I was writing what became *Reason, Truth and History*, I came very much under his influence. There were still disagreements, but he told me that the important thing was that another philosopher he respected recognized that the questions he had raised

were important, and calling them “important” is a huge understatement. Still more recently our philosophical trajectories began to diverge again, and I am saddened that there won’t be more exchanges between us.

Apart from realism and antirealism, our discussions touched on many topics, including the importance of fighting racism, an area in which Michael was exemplary, not just as a thinker, but as a human being. In addition to our philosophical conversations, Michael’s loving nature, and his total informality are what I best remember. Michael Dummett cared about ideas, he cared about people, he cared about society, and he rightly connected caring about any one of the three and caring about the other two.



## Smoke and Milk Tim Crane

University of Cambridge

I met Michael Dummett only once, though I don’t think he met me. I was in a pub in Oxford sometime in the 1980s, and Dummett came in and asked the barman for “40 Benson & Hedges, please” in a real smoker’s voice. I recognized him, of course: I was a graduate student in philosophy and a real philosophy nerd.

But I also recognized him because when I was a child I used to attend the same church as he did. I was brought up Catholic and my family went to the Dominican priory (Blackfriars) in Oxford. Blackfriars was politically liberal but liturgically conservative, a combination which I think suited Dummett. I have memories of him as a rather frightening figure, with his huge head and white hair stained yellow at the front. What sticks in my mind is that on Good Friday, when there was the traditional “veneration” (kissing) of the cross, Dummett would

take off his shoes before joining the procession. This intense, uncompromising seriousness is also manifest in his philosophical writing.

Those who knew him say he had a jovial side too. When I saw him in that pub many years later, I was waiting to be served while the barman found Dummett his cigarettes. Dummett pointed to a sign on the bar that said “draught milk.” “Draught milk? Is that a joke?” he cackled. I smiled enthusiastically, but was completely lost for words. It was only later that I learned the story of how Dummett had met Wittgenstein at Elizabeth Anscombe’s house in Oxford. Wittgenstein had only said one thing to him: “Do you know where the milk is?” Dummett did not know.

I like the fact that these two meetings over milk linked me to Dummett, and Dummett to Wittgenstein.



With Philippa Foot

## No Shortage of Problems Christopher Peacocke

Columbia University and University College, London

Wittgenstein once complained that Russell suffered from “loss of problems.” No one could say that about Michael Dummett. He identified new problems, and they were always deep. His treatment of the justification of deduction initiated discussions continuing to this day. Depth and intensity were also present in his philosophical conversation. He devoted the same energy to discussion with students as he did to his public engagements with his famous contemporaries Quine and Davidson. He was unstinting with his time. I sometimes appeared at his home expecting an hour’s supervision session, stayed for lunch, talked philosophy while Michael drove his wife to the station, and returned for more, leaving only at dusk.

His well-intentioned advice could be formidable. He told me, as a 22 year-old, at the start of a series of supervisions on Frege, on whose work he was then the world expert: “I know the

literature, and I’ll assume you’ve read it too: so just write new stuff for me each week.”

The gap between Michael’s theory and his practical life was a reliable source of pleasure to his friends. He published original contributions to the theory of voting; yet he designed a system for a Wardenship election in Oxford that permitted – and produced – massive tactical voting. He published a book on writing style in philosophy, an enterprise described by one philosopher as comparable to Attila the Hun producing a book on etiquette. But his anti-racism work, and efforts on behalf of immigrants, was effective and much admired.

I visited Michael in Oxford four years ago, and he told me that he had written his last piece of philosophy. I took the opportunity to say he should be pleased about what he had written in his life. He replied, “Yes, I certainly am!”

## Master Class Crispin Wright

New York University and the University of Aberdeen

Philosophers are chiefly remembered for what they wrote, but my personal memory of Michael Dummett is of a very challenging but very supportive supervisor and a superb lecturer. In 1971 I was lucky enough to attend one run of the course that subsequently became his 1977 book *Elements of Intuitionism*. Dummett liked to use the then newfangled white boards, on which he wrote using variously colored water-soluble pens, erasing by means of a contraption that combined the qualities of a water pistol with a square of blotting paper. He lectured with an extraordinary fluency, hardly ever referring to his notes, at the same time producing highly legible, multicolored text on the board almost as fast as he could speak it, spraying, smudging and erasing as he went along,

and smoking incessantly using a cigarette holder which, along with the pens, he lodged between his fingers – we waited for him to put one of the pens in his mouth and take a drag, or inadvertently extinguish his cigarette with a spurt from the eraser, but it never happened.

The lectures contained a wealth of detail, both technical and philosophical. Dummett’s erudition was remarkable – his undergraduate background had been in PPE, and his grasp of logic and mathematics had been almost entirely self-taught. But my abiding memory is of the passion of his delivery, the determination to get things right, and the sense he radiated of the deep interest of the issues and the huge importance of thinking about them well.



The tributes reprinted here are courtesy and copyright of the *New York Times*.  
The entire series appeared at: <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/01/04/remembering-michael-dummett>



# Right on

## Oxford Philosophy and the Philosophy of Psychiatry

by Bill (K.W.M.) Fulford

As we approach next year's centenary of the publication of Karl Jaspers' *Allgemeine Psychopathologie* it is fitting that we should celebrate the many contributions of Oxford philosophy to the rapidly expanding field of philosophy of psychiatry.

There is much to celebrate. At the time of writing no fewer than fifteen Faculty members are currently working in areas directly or indirectly relevant to psychiatry and its underpinning sciences; a successful DPhil scholarship generously funded by the Laces Trust; the publication of the 50th volume in the OUP book series, *International Perspectives in Philosophy and Psychiatry* (the *Oxford Handbook* is due out next year); the appointment of a Mellon Career Development Fellow; and our recently announced summer school with the Department for Continuing Education in Mind, Value, and Mental Health.

There is much to celebrate also in our track record. As the timeline opposite indicates, present and past Faculty members have played key roles at each stage in the progress of the new field. Brian Farrell, Jonathan Glover, R.M. Hare, Rom Harré, Bill Newton-Smith, Kathleen Wilkes and Mary and Geoffrey Warnock were all in at the start in the 1970s and 1980s with path-finding publications and as supervisors of no less than four psychiatrists who completed Oxford doctorates over this period. These and other Oxford philosophers went on to make vital contributions to kick starting the expansion of the field in the 1990s through their generous support for the academic and

other institutions that were launched at this time. The McDonnell-Pew seminars, in bringing together for the first time philosophers not only with neuroscientists and clinicians but also with service users, were a vital 'proof of product' for practice: and Faculty members have continued to play leading roles in the increasingly dynamic interplay between theory and practice by which the philosophy of psychiatry has come to be characterised.

All this has not come out of the blue. Martin Davies in his article in the 2011 edition of this magazine reminded us of Oxford philosophy's century-long tradition of inter-disciplinary work between philosophy and psychology. It was natural therefore that if the philosophy of psychiatry were to emerge anywhere, Oxford would be in the thick of it. But given Jaspers' strong lead, it is perhaps surprising that (Continental phenomenology aside) contact between philosophy and psychiatry for much of the 20th century was to say the least sporadic. So, the question is, why? Why Oxford and why in the 1970s/1980s?

Part at least of the answer is suggested by the recent work of two American sociologists, Brian Uzzi and Jarrett Spiro, on the social context of creativity. Most creativity research has focussed on the psychology of individual genius. Uzzi and Spiro showed that, important as individual genius undoubtedly is, creative individuals rarely flourish unless they are part of a social group with the appropriate amount of a property they christened 'Q'.

*No fewer than fifteen Faculty members are currently working in areas directly or indirectly relevant to psychiatry and its underpinning sciences.*

### 1913-2013: 100 Years of Philosophy of Psychiatry





Q is essentially a measure of inter-connectedness or social intimacy: too little inter-connectedness and creativity falls apart for lack of checks and balances; too much inter-connectedness and creativity disappears into a black hole of mutual self-validation. Q thus requires a Goldilocks balance of in-group connectedness and out-group openness.

Q certainly describes the best of Oxford philosophy. The Goldilocks balance was evident in the 1970s and 1980s in the openness shown by Faculty members to DPhil students from Psychiatry; institutionally too there were strong links between Philosophy and Michael Gelder's (at the time recently established) Department of Psychiatry. The inter-disciplinary McDonnell-Pew seminars, similarly, were co-hosted with Warwick University and the Institute of Psychiatry in London. The current Faculty is again good on Q with many individuals working out-group as well as in-group and with established institutional partners representing expertise both in core scientific areas and at the cutting edge of contemporary mental health policy and practice.

*Q is a measure of inter-connectedness or social intimacy: too little and creativity falls apart; too much and creativity disappears.*

The appropriate level of Q also nicely explains the truly exponential expansion of the philosophy of psychiatry in the 1990s. As the time line indicates many and diverse groups and individuals around the world, working in-group but also out-group, were important here. The philosophy of psychiatry has indeed been remarkable (if in no other ways) for the extent to which instead of breaking up into tribal factions, it has held together as a collegial venture. Yet attention to Q also carries a warning. For the very success of philosophy of psychiatry, with its

remarkable expansion into so many and disparate areas, renders it now vulnerable to falling apart from lack of cohesive inter-connectedness. Electronic networking may help to restore the Goldilocks balance. But one way or another, what is now needed, so Uzzi and Spiro's model suggests, is a node, a centre, a hub. It is our hope and expectation that Oxford has the right amount of Q to be that place.

## PROFILE



Bill Fulford

Bill (K.W.M.) Fulford is Distinguished Research Fellow in the Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, University of Oxford, and Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Mental Health in the University of Warwick Medical School. He is also a Visiting Professor at the Institute of Psychiatry in London and in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Pretoria University. He held an Honorary Consultant post in the Department of Psychiatry and a Fellowship by Special Election at St Cross College until his retirement from clinical work earlier this year.

While a Lecturer in the University Department of Psychiatry in the 1970s Bill completed a DPhil with Mary and Geoffrey Warnock and RM Hare on concepts of disorder and philosophical

value theory on which his first book, *Moral Theory and Medical Practice*, is based. He went on to become a leading figure in the development of the teaching and research infrastructure of philosophy of psychiatry. He set up the first institution-based academic organization (The Royal College of Psychiatrists Philosophy Group), the first 'chair' (the Philosophy and Ethics of Mental Health (PEMH) teaching and research programme at Warwick University) and the first DPhil scholarship, the Laces Scholarship in the Faculty of Philosophy in Oxford. He is Founder Editor of the journal, *PPP – Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology*, and of the OUP book series *IPPP – International Perspectives in Philosophy and Psychiatry*. With colleagues in America, Italy and South

Africa he launched the INPP (International Network for Philosophy and Psychiatry) from Cape Town in 1995 which has supported a series of annual international conferences ([www.inpponline.org](http://www.inpponline.org)). Building on his DPhil and subsequent work in philosophical value theory Bill has developed a skills-based approach to working with complex and conflicting values in health care called values-based practice. As a Special Advisor to the Department of Health in London, Bill led on the development of values-based practice in key areas of policy and practice in mental health. With colleagues at Warwick he is currently extending the approach to other areas of healthcare (see [go.warwick.ac.uk/values-basedpractice](http://go.warwick.ac.uk/values-basedpractice)).

## Q in Action

### Seminar Series

#### Meaning and Mindedness: Encounters between Philosophy and Psychoanalysis



Tavistock Clinic, London  
November 2012 - June 2013

Edward Harcourt  
Fellow of Keble College

Three years ago I gave a talk at the Institute of Psychoanalysis in London. At least one person in the audience – consultant psychiatrist Sarah Majid – must have been listening because she got in touch afterwards and asked if I had any ideas for some interdisciplinary work we might do together at the Tavistock Clinic, where she was then also a psychotherapist in the Adult Department. My answer was an enthusiastic 'yes'.

On the whole philosophy and psychoanalysis meet on a very unequal footing, with philosophers the students and psychoanalysts the objects of study. Understandably psychoanalysts tire quite quickly of being someone else's laboratory animals so the 'interdisciplinary' study soon gets carried on with only philosophers present. Investigations of this kind have also tended to be limited to methodology ('is psychoanalysis a science?') or the credentials of this or that psychoanalytic concept. These are not bad things to investigate, but good answers to them were given some time ago (for example by Brian Farrell) and their continued hogging of the airwaves has obscured the possibility that psychoanalysts and philosophers might also be

able to work together in a different way. That is the point of the *Meaning and Mindedness* seminar, funded initially by the Wellcome Trust and the third series of which will begin in the autumn. Some of the most interesting topics in moral psychology – irrationality, the emotions, psychic conflict, autonomy, empathy – are topics on which both philosophers and psychoanalysts have much to say.

The seminar, which has been addressed by several Oxford philosophers including Anita Avramides and Hanna Pickard, aims to get them to say it in one another's presence, in a language intelligible beyond their own professional constituency – and to try and make something usable by both professions out of what happens next.

*Meaning and Mindedness: Encounters between Philosophy and Psychoanalysis* will run at the Tavistock Clinic, part of the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, London, from November 2012-June 2013, usually on the last Friday of the month.

For further details see: [www.tavistockandportman.ac.uk/cpd15](http://www.tavistockandportman.ac.uk/cpd15)

### Summer School

#### Philosophy and Psychiatry: Mind, Value, and Mental Health

St Catherine's College, Oxford  
14 - 19 July 2013

Presented by the Faculty of Philosophy and the Department for Continuing Education, this event will explore the areas in which the philosophy of mind and ethics come into contact with issues concerning mental health.

The summer school will be led by members of Oxford's Faculty of Philosophy:  
**Martin Davies**  
**Bill Fulford**  
**Edward Harcourt**

International guest speakers include:  
**Chris Frith** (UCL)  
**George Graham** (Georgia State University)  
**Terence Irwin** (University of Oxford)  
**Giovanni Stanghellini** (University of Chieti)

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## Feature

# Charity of the Wise

Over the past few years, recent Oxford Philosophy DPhil and current Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Toby Ord, and current DPhil student Will Crouch have been at the forefront of two initiatives that combine philosophical reflection with their enthusiasm for promoting charitable giving.

## Giving What We Can



Toby Ord

In Michaelmas of 2004 I stood apprehensively in the foyer to the Philosophy Faculty, reading through the list of BPhil examination questions that had just been pinned to the noticeboard. Amidst a group of very theoretical questions for the Ethics paper, was the following:

'Ought I to forego some luxury whenever I can and thereby enable someone else's life to be saved?'

Phrased so, it seemed difficult to deny. However, I could see the connection to Peter Singer's work on the ethics of global poverty. We in rich countries often spend money on luxuries that could instead be used to save people's lives in poor countries. Is it wrong to do so? Does this imply that we are morally required to have no luxuries in our lives?

I chose this as one of my two Ethics questions and as I answered it, I was drawn into the wider discussion on the ethics of global poverty. I also explored the academic research on the effectiveness of aid to see how strong the empirical premise was. It turns out that there are very wide discrepancies in the effectiveness of different aid interventions. Some interventions are ten times as effective as others. Some are ten times as effective as

that. Some ten times as effective again, and the very best are ten times as effective as this. By donating to the most effective interventions, one's money can achieve ten thousand times the benefit that it would achieve if spent on the less effective interventions, and more than ten thousand times as much benefit if spent on oneself.

I had always been interested in ethics for the purpose of finding out how to live my life and so this combination of philosophical and empirical research on poverty led me to change my behaviour. I decided to donate all of my income above a fixed threshold to help people living in developing countries. As I talked with my fellow students about this decision, several of them thought that this was the right response to the compelling theoretical arguments and decided to join me in this endeavour.

I honed these ideas during my BPhil and DPhil, and founded an organization called Giving What We Can, dedicated to effectively fighting poverty. At its core it is

a society of members who have made a lifetime pledge to donate at least 10% of their income to wherever they each think it can do the most to help people in developing countries. Our volunteers also perform research on the ethics of poverty and on which charities are the most effective, sharing this with the public and advising governments and NGOs.

Two years later, Giving What We Can has more than 200 members, pledging to donate a combined £46 million over their careers. While our members and volunteers come from all walks of life, academic philosophy is very well represented, including particularly prominent members such as Peter Singer and Thomas Pogge, as well as a host of members and active volunteers from the JCRs, MCRs, and SCRs of Oxford. I think that Giving What We Can serves as an example of what philosophers can achieve when putting theory into practice, and I hope that many others will join in, or develop their own initiatives around other important philosophical ideas.



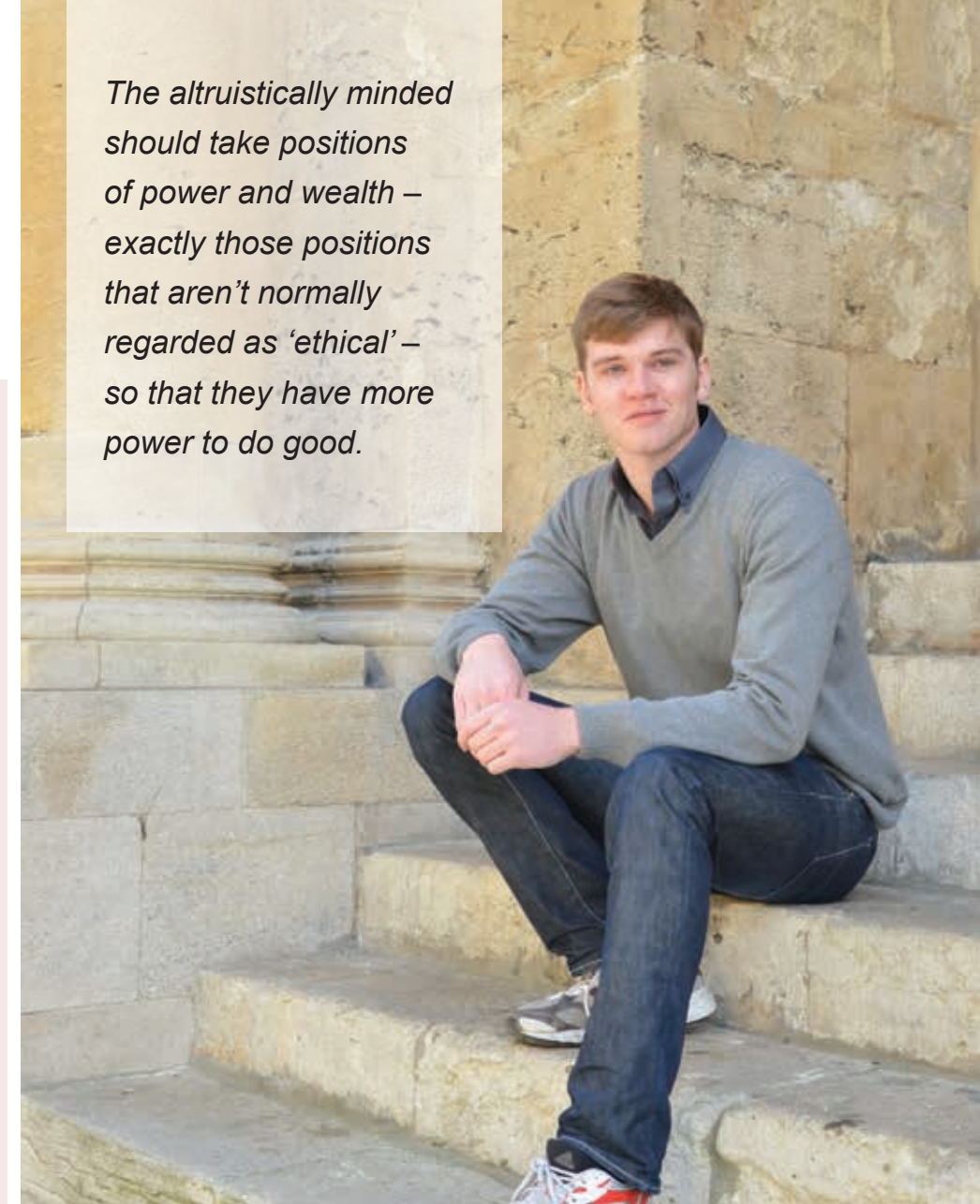
## 80,000 Hours High Impact Ethical Careers

### Will Crouch

"Make a Difference." That's a common slogan in the public discourse around 'ethical' careers. But it's an odd slogan, in two ways. First, it doesn't tell you to make a positive difference – literally speaking, one can make a difference by killing someone; but that doesn't make murder ethical. (I should note, though, that the British army advertises itself with the slogan 'make a difference' – perhaps exploiting this loophole.) Second, and more importantly, the 'a' seems strange. When there are so many ways to 'make a difference' in the world, shouldn't we focus on what's best? I tried to take this question seriously, and asked myself: what careers enable one to make the most difference?

As part of my research at Oxford, I began giving lectures on the topic and wrote a paper addressing this question. What I had to say was somewhat controversial. Most ethical careers advice involves encouraging graduates to work for charities or environmentally-minded firms, through which one is directly helping others. In general, however, these are relatively low-paying jobs, in which one has little influence; and so one effect of this advice is that it's the self-interested and ruthless that take positions of power and wealth in society. I argued that the altruistically minded should take positions of power and wealth – exactly those positions that aren't normally regarded as 'ethical' – so that they have more power to do good. In particular, I argued that one could do far more good by pursuing a lucrative career in the City and donating a substantial proportion of one's earnings – a route I call 'professional philanthropy' – than by working in the charitable sector. This might seem surprising. But, by working in the City, you'll typically earn enough that you can pay for several charity workers to take your place. And, importantly, if you don't become that charity worker, someone else will take that job instead of you, doing the same good work that you would have done. But if you decide against professional philanthropy, then, though another worker will take your place, they will likely donate far less than you would have done. So the

*The altruistically minded should take positions of power and wealth – exactly those positions that aren't normally regarded as 'ethical' – so that they have more power to do good.*



positive difference you would make as a professional philanthropist would not have happened anyway.

I found that many students, as well as those at the Oxford Careers Service, got excited about this idea of a 'high impact' ethical career. So I founded an organization, called 80,000 Hours (roughly the number of hours we typically spending working in life), in order to provide a community for those that wished to pursue such a career. The organization turned out to be far more successful than I had expected. There was a major launch in Oxford and a succession of events; I was interviewed by John Humphrys on the Today program and featured on BBC news on-line; and I was invited by Peter Singer to speak for his class on Practical Ethics at Princeton.

80,000 Hours now has over 80 members, all of whom are putting these ideas into practice. Some are entering the city or

pursuing tech entrepreneurship, generally with a pledge to donate 50% or more of their earnings. Some are seeking positions of influence, such as within politics. Others are pursuing high value research.

A question I often get asked is: what about my path? Can philosophy be a high impact ethical career? Perhaps surprisingly, I think it can. We know very little about what the best ways of doing good in the world are. We know that we face many problems – climate change, global poverty, animal suffering – but very little work has been done on how to prioritise these problems in order to find out what is most important; and even less has been done on how one can most effectively lead an altruistic life. As a philosopher one can address these questions and others of equal importance; and, especially at Oxford, one has the ability to spread these ideas among the brightest young minds in the country. It's a powerful opportunity.



# A NEW WORLD

## Philosophical Idealism in America



Kenneth P. Winkler, 2012 Isaiah Berlin Visiting Professor in the History of Ideas, tells us about the series of lectures that he delivered.

Listen to the lectures at [www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk/lectures/isaiah\\_berlin\\_lectures](http://www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk/lectures/isaiah_berlin_lectures)



It is well-known that at the turn of the twentieth century, Oxford was awash in philosophical idealism. It's less well-known that the same was true of universities and colleges in the United States. In 1950, the historian Henry Steele Commager called pragmatism "almost the official philosophy of America." He may have been right about mid-century America, but for almost 250 years before that, if America had an official philosophy, it was idealism. And at the turn of the twentieth century in particular, idealism was, as one well-placed observer put it, "in the ascendant everywhere." It was in 1913 that Harvard's Josiah Royce came to Manchester College to deliver his Hibbert Lectures. He was an absolute idealist entering friendly territory, and you might suppose that his time in Oxford was a relief of sorts from pragmatist Harvard. But most of Royce's Harvard colleagues were idealists too. In Plato's famous battle of gods and giants, they stood with the gods, using abstract argument to shatter the bodies that were, according to their opponents in the party of the giants, the only true realities. (Harvard's graduate students were a different story. As one of their idealist teachers complained, they had been corrupted by William James.) It was James, not Royce, who felt isolated among his fellow faculty. As he told the Oxford audience at his own Hibbert Lectures, delivered in 1908, "I have an impression that ever since

T.H. Green's time absolute idealism has been decidedly in the ascendent at Oxford. It is in the ascendent at my own university of Harvard." In view of idealism's turn-of-the-century predominance, it isn't surprising that at first, pragmatists on both sides of the Atlantic, most notably Oxford's F.C.S. Schiller, put pragmatism forward as a form of idealism – what they called personal idealism.

My Berlin lectures were an exploration of the idealist tradition in America, from its beginnings in the early eighteenth century (in the unpublished papers of the young Jonathan Edwards, a student at the puritan college in New Haven whose reaction to Locke's *Essay concerning Human Understanding* was much the same as the reaction of the young George Berkeley) to its petering out – at least within what was, by then, "professional" philosophy – in the middle of the twentieth. "Petering out" may not be the best description, because there was something glorious in its ending. The last of the idealists I talked about – the final link in a continuous chain of Boston University teachers and students that began in the 1870's – was Martin Luther King, who wrote in his intellectual autobiography that "personalism" (as the Boston version of idealism was known) remained his "basic philosophical position." He wrote that "personalism's insistence that only personality – finite and infinite – is ultimately

real strengthened me in two convictions: it gave me metaphysical and philosophical grounding for the idea of a personal God, and it gave me a metaphysical basis for the dignity and worth of all human personality." In between Edwards and King, my lectures examined Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Josiah Royce, and the two leading personalists of the turn of the twentieth century: Borden Parker Bowne (the teacher of King's teacher Edgar Sheffield Brightman), and George Holmes Howison, the first professor of philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley.

Here I can do no more than give a rough indication of one theme that ran through several of my lectures: the idealist or body-shattering consequences of the doctrine of continuous creation. Most of us first encounter the doctrine as readers of Descartes. "A lifespan," Descartes wrote in the *Third Meditation*, "can be divided into countless parts, each completely independent of the others, so that it does not follow from the fact that I existed a little while ago that I must exist now, unless there is some cause which as it were creates me afresh at this moment – that is, which preserves me." Jonathan Edwards was a fiercely imaginative metaphysician and the greatest English-language writer, before G.E. Moore, of analytical philosophical prose.

He used continuous creation – or, more precisely, the successiveness of what we now call a body's temporal parts – to argue that bodies have what he called "a merely dependent identity." "There is no identity or oneness in the case," he maintained, "but what depends on the arbitrary constitution of the Creator; who by his sovereign establishment so unites these successive new effects, that he treats them as one, by communicating to them like properties, relations, and circumstances; and so, leads us to regard and treat them as one." (Princeton philosopher Mark Johnston has aptly called this "identity voluntarism.") This is an argument for the diminished reality or insubstantiality of body. But it can just as easily be used to establish the diminished reality of finite spirit, as readers of Edwards came to realize. Like William Ellery Channing, the greatest figure in early nineteenth-century Unitarianism (Emerson called him "our Bishop"), they thought that by exalting God, Edwards had too much diminished man. "Calvinism will complain of being spoken of as an approach to Pantheism," Channing wrote. "It will say that it recognizes distinct minds from the Divine. But what avails this, if it robs these minds of self-determining force, of original activity; if it makes them passive recipients

of the Universal Force; if it sees in human action only the necessary issues of a foreign impulse? The doctrine that God is the only Substance, which is Pantheism, differs little from the doctrine that God is the only active power of the universe. For what is substance without power?"

Channing's successors, Emerson among them, sought an idealism that allowed for free and independent human spirits. Hence Emerson, in "all [his] lectures, ... taught," as he said, "one doctrine, ... the infinitude of the private man." (This is a fair summary of what came to be known as Transcendentalism.) But many of Emerson's academic readers in the late nineteenth century – Bowne, Howison, and Felix Adler (a Columbia University professor of social ethics who was himself a Hibbert Lecturer at Oxford in 1923) – were unhappy with Emerson's blurry conception of the finite and the infinite. They saw Emerson himself as a pantheist. (It was an interpretation encouraged by Emerson's most widely quoted piece of writing, the poem "Brahma," which began: "They reckon ill who leave me out; When me they fly, I am the wings; I am the doubter and the doubt, And I the hymn the Brahmin sings.") Well-schooled in German

philosophy, particularly in Kant, all three returned to the argument from continuous creation or successive existence and gave it a new, more everyday hero: not the arbitrary will of an omnipotent God, but (to quote Bowne) the "constitutive and synthesizing intelligence" of the human mind – a mind to which the argument could not be re-applied (or so they all insisted), because its existence, in their view, did not lie in succession.

Coming to terms with the relationship between the finite and the infinite was the great struggle of American idealism. Royce, who quoted Emerson's "Brahma" approvingly, was another philosopher who struck Bowne and Howison as a pantheist. I will leave the last word to him, not because it settles anything, but because it expresses an aspiration that is, despite its paradoxicality, not that hard to share. (It was shared, for example, even by his critic Howison.) I want, Royce told a friend, to "become infinite in my own way."

Kenneth P. Winkler is Professor of Philosophy at Yale University. He is the author of *Berkeley: An Interpretation* (1989) and numerous articles on philosophers from the early modern period.



# A Year in the Mist



DPhil student, Andrew Stephenson, writes about studying at the Stiftung Maximilianeum in Munich, Germany.

In October 2010 I arrived in Munich as a visiting student at the Stiftung Maximilianeum in association with Ludwig Maximilians University. And here, speaking both academically and personally, I spent one of the most rewarding and transformative years of my life.

Spending time on the continent during graduate school is not something that is particularly common among philosophy students at Oxford. Perhaps this is because so many of us come from abroad anyway, perhaps it is because analytic philosophy is still seen as primarily an Anglophone discipline. Whatever the reason, bucking this trend offers clear attractions. What initially attracted me was the opportunity it provided for learning a foreign language. In my case I had a curricular motivation for doing so, namely my interest in Kant. I had some German from school and from weekly classes with the Oxford University Language Centre. Enough to understand basic translational and etymological issues concerning Kant's technical vocabulary, by no means enough to read his works in the original or to partake actively in philosophical conversation. And yet I had already discovered one highly significant instance of the dangers of approaching the history of philosophy in translation. The most central term of art in the Critical system, 'Erkenntnis', has traditionally been rendered into English as 'knowledge'. But unlike knowledge, Erkenntnis is not necessarily factive. I needed to know more.

And of course it almost goes without saying – 'almost' though not quite, since native English speakers are notoriously guilty of forgetting it – that learning a foreign language is enormously valuable regardless of such specific applications. The amount one learns about one's own language. The intellectual gratification to be found in grasping grammatical rules or developing a feel for the flexible conventions of syntax. The sheer

freshness of doing something so entirely different from philosophy – hard thinking is minimal in the day-to-day practice of language learning and answers abound that enjoy universal consensus. Above all, the joy of becoming acquainted with another culture, so similar and yet so different from one's own.

In Bavaria this involves exactly what is advertised: beer, sausages, Lederhosen (I honestly own a pair), and mountains. But it also involves much more: music, comedy, architecture, and the German university

system. It is very different from ours. One example of this is the organization of departments into Lehrstühle – subject-specific chairs. This ensures that those working in similar areas within a given department are not only aware of each other's existence but often share the same work space. In my experience things are rather more haphazard in Oxford. This is not to say that collective research doesn't occur here. Of course it does and there are many fantastic examples. But it is not something that is built in to the very structure of the Faculty, and while some areas do not

suffer from this, some, including mine, do. It is a great regret that it was all too slowly that I became aware of the rich wealth of interest in and knowledge of Kant that is on offer in the Oxford philosophical community, with the result that only very recently have I managed to contrive a situation in which we come together on a regular basis. Arriving at LMU this kind of integration, which can be so fruitful, stimulating and pleasurable, occurred more or less immediately and automatically.

Another notable difference, though one I am much more ambivalent about, is the requirement in the German system that immediately after the doctoral thesis, if one is to become eligible to apply for any permanent position, one must complete what is in effect a second thesis – the Habilitation, slightly longer and on a different topic. This seems like the very antithesis of analytic philosophy's move towards specialism and the article-based dissemination of research, not to mention how

*With both similarities and differences along the way, I had a great time and I significantly improved my language skills and the breadth and depth of my philosophical understanding.*

detrimental such a requirement must surely be to the importing of young talent from other countries.

A word is now due about my actual host institution, the Stiftung Maximilianeum. For it is in fact the closest thing to an

Oxford college that is to be found in Germany, perhaps in mainland Europe (although the écoles normales supérieures come closer in some respects). In a palatial building that rises resplendent from the banks of the river Isar just east of Munich city centre – a building that is today also host to the state parliament – it houses the very best Bavarian students and can boast Werner Heisenberg as an alumnus. The Stiftung runs exchange programmes with The Queen's College, Merton (through whom my own connection with the Stiftung was initially organized), St John's, Balliol, and New; the ENS in Paris, Salamanca in Spain and Pavia in Italy. It is independent from the universities but very well respected indeed. It is not itself a teaching institution, providing merely accommodation and board in accordance with the terms laid down in 1852 by King Maximilian II, though it does run a variety of language courses and a philosophy discussion circle as well as sport and social events. All in all, a great, eclectic, historic place to be. Just like a college.

So, with both similarities and differences along the way, I had a great time and I significantly improved my language skills and the breadth and depth of my philosophical understanding. More concretely, my time in Germany and the interests I developed while there led quite directly to the position I now hold, which is Laming Junior Fellow at The Queen's College. This is a JRF-type position reserved for those whose studies are somehow connected to a living foreign language. It is not normally given to philosophers. With the job market as it is now and the astronomically competitive conditions at the level of permanent positions inevitably trickling down to infect the post-doctoral level positions, any widening of eligibility can be enormously valuable. It certainly was for me.

However, having said all this by way of extolling the virtues of spending a year abroad – and I really cannot say enough in this vein – I feel I must briefly draw attention to one potential pitfall, which is that of becoming distant from one's supervisor. This happened to me and it takes time and effort to set right. To a certain extent it is inevitable. To a certain extent it can be offset by all the new people there are to talk to. But no-one other than yourself knows your thesis like your supervisor and the more they have to say about it the better it will be.

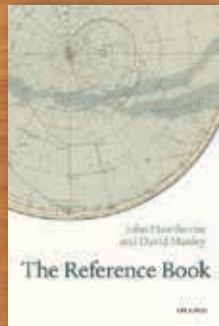




# Bookshelf

## Recent scholarship from Oxford philosophers

**John Hawthorne  
(with David Manley)**  
*The Reference Book*  
(OUP, 2012)



John Hawthorne and David Manley offer an original treatment of the semantic phenomenon of reference and the cognitive phenomenon of singular thought. Part I argues against the idea that either is tied to a special relation of causal or epistemic acquaintance. Part II challenges the alleged semantic rift between definite and indefinite descriptions on the one hand, and names and demonstratives on the other. Drawing on recent work in linguistics and philosophical semantics they explore a more unified account of all four types of expression according to which none of them paradigmatically fits the profile of a referential term.

**Jessica Moss**  
*Aristotle on the Apparent Good*  
(OUP, 2012)



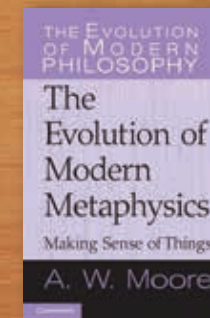
Jessica Moss presents a new – and controversial – interpretation of Aristotle's moral psychology: one which greatly restricts the role of reason in ethical matters, and gives an absolutely central role to pleasure. She argues that on Aristotle's view things appear good to us, just as things appear round or small, in virtue of a psychological capacity responsible for quasi-perceptual phenomena like dreams and visualization: phantasia ('imagination'). Once we realize this, Jessica suggests, we can use his detailed accounts of phantasia and its relation to perception and thought to gain new insight into some of the most debated areas of Aristotle's philosophy.

**John Broome**  
*Climate Matters: Ethics In a Warming World*  
(W. W. Norton, 2012)



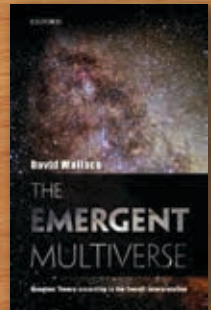
John Broome examines climate change in an invigorating new way. As he considers the moral dimensions, he reasons through what universal standards of goodness and justice require of us. His conclusions challenge and enlighten. Eco-conscious readers may be surprised to hear they have a duty to offset all their carbon emissions, while policy makers will grapple with his analysis of what is owed to future generations. *Climate Matters* is an essential contribution to one of the paramount issues of our time.

**A. W. Moore**  
*The Evolution of Modern Metaphysics: Making Sense of Things*  
(CUP, 2012)



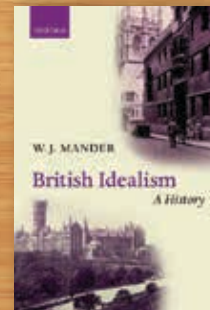
In this book Adrian Moore is concerned with the history of metaphysics since Descartes. Taking as its definition of metaphysics 'the most general attempt to make sense of things', it charts the evolution of this enterprise through various competing conceptions of its possibility, scope and limits. Adrian's study refutes the tired old cliché that there is some unbridgeable gulf between analytic philosophy and philosophy of other kinds. It also advances its own distinctive and compelling conception of what metaphysics is and why it matters, exploring how it can help us to cope with continually changing demands on our humanity.

**David Wallace**  
*The Emergent Multiverse: Quantum Theory according to the Everett Interpretation*  
(OUP, 2012)



David Wallace provides a new account of the Everett (or 'many worlds') interpretation of quantum theory. If the point of science is to tell us how the world works and what it is like, quantum theory seems to fail to do this. Indeed it seems to make crazy claims: particles are in two places at once; cats are alive and dead at the same time. The Everett interpretation takes the apparent craziness seriously, and asks, 'what would such a world be like?' The answer: at the macroscopic level, it would be constantly branching into copies. David offers a clear and up-to-date survey of work on the Everett interpretation in physics and in philosophy of science, and at the same time provides a self-contained and thoroughly modern account of it.

**W. J. Mander**  
*British Idealism: A History*  
(OUP, 2011)



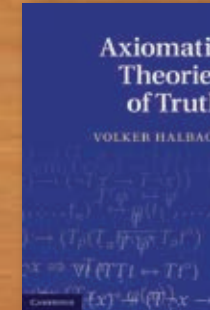
Bill Mander has written the first ever synoptic history of British Idealism, the philosophical school which dominated English-language philosophy from the 1860s through to the early years of the following century. Offering detailed examination of the origins, growth, development, and decline of this mode of thinking, Bill restores to its proper place this now almost wholly forgotten period of philosophical history, and provides a full-length history of this vital school for those wishing to fill a gap in their knowledge of the history of British Philosophy.

**Frank Arntzenius**  
*Space, Time and Stuff* (OUP, 2012)



Frank Arntzenius presents a series of radical new ideas about the structure of space and time. Along the way, he examines some non-standard views about the structure of spacetime and its inhabitants, including the idea that space and time are pointless, the idea that quantum mechanics is a completely local theory, the idea that antiparticles are just particles travelling back in time, and the idea that time has no structure whatsoever. The main thrust of the book, however, is that there are good reasons to believe that spaces other than spacetime exist, and that it is the existence of these additional spaces that allows one to reduce all of physics to geometry.

**Volker Halbach**  
*Axiomatic Theories of Truth*  
(CUP, 2011)



At the centre of the traditional discussion of truth is the question of how truth is defined. Recent research, especially with the development of deflationist accounts of truth, has tended to take truth as an undefined primitive notion governed by axioms, while the liar paradox and cognate paradoxes pose problems for certain seemingly natural axioms for truth. Volker Halbach examines the most important axiomatizations of truth, explores their properties and shows how the logical results impinge on the philosophical topics related to truth.

## Back to School

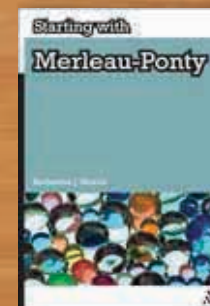
In addition to their more scholarly works, Oxford philosophers often write more accessible books. Readers may enjoy brushing up their philosophy with three recent offerings.

**T. J. Mawson**  
*Free Will: A Guide for the Perplexed*  
(Continuum, 2011)



How can we be free if everything is determined by factors beyond our control, stretching back in time to the Big Bang? The only alternative to determinism seems to be indeterminism, but isn't this to admit a randomness that hinders us from being the authors of our actions? Tim Mawson's introductory book looks at how much of the structure of our everyday judgments can survive the arguments behind such thoughts, including an up-to-date overview of the contemporary debates.

**Katherine Morris:**  
*Starting with Merleau-Ponty*  
(Continuum, 2011)



Katherine Morris leads the reader through an overview of the development of the thought of Merleau-Ponty, one of the most important philosophers of the 20th century. With coverage of the full range of Merleau-Ponty's ideas and his relationship to major influences such as Husserl, Heidegger and Sartre, the book explores his contributions to phenomenology, existentialism, empiricism, objective thought and his vision of human reality and the crucial concept of the lived-body.

**Marianne Talbot:**  
*Bioethics: An Introduction*  
(CUP, 2012)



An introductory text which clearly explains bioethical theories and their philosophical foundations. Over 250 activities introduce topics for personal reflection, and discussion points encourage students to think for themselves. Each chapter features boxes providing factual information and outlining the philosophical background, along with detailed case studies. Accompanying podcasts by the author, along with a range of extra resources for students and instructors, are available at [www.cambridge.org/bioethics](http://www.cambridge.org/bioethics).





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