



**Universität
Zürich^{UZH}**

Institute of Philosophy

Doctoral Program "Philosophy – Language, Mind and Practice"

Master Class

Pragmatism and Expressivism

Simon Blackburn

Trinity College, Cambridge

April 15th to 16th 2016

Synopsis

This course will discuss two strands in modern philosophy. One is the pragmatist strand, notably associated with the classic American pragmatists from C. S. Peirce to Richard Rorty and also visible in the writings of Frank Ramsey, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and Huw Price in Cambridge. The other is the expressivist approach to parts of language, notably represented by the 'emotivists' of the logical positivist movement, but descending to the present in the writings of Allan Gibbard and myself.

We shall discuss how each movement relates to its neighbours: pragmatism has a footing in straightforward empiricism; expressivism is an outcome of the Scottish sentimentalist tradition in moral philosophy, but also has an ancestry in Kant.

Programme

Friday, 15th April 2016

- 9:30 – 12:30 What Distinguishes Pragmatism?
14:30 – 16:00 Open Question in Pragmatism
16:30 – 18:30 Examples in Pragmatism

Saturday, 16th April 2015

- 9:30 – 12:30 Naturalism & the Fact-Value Distinction
14:30 – 16:00 Pragmatism, Representation & Truth
16:30 – 18:30 Roundup. Unfinished Business. Future Prospects

Registration: phd@philos.uzh.ch

Readings: <http://www.philosophie.uzh.ch/doktorat/meisterkurse.html>

Venue: Philosophisches Seminar, Zürichbergstrasse 43, 8044 Zürich

Room: ZUP-U-8

No fees apply, but please note that participants are expected to have done the reading of the texts. PhD students at the UZH are required to book the module in order to get credit points.

Readings

Session 1: What Distinguishes Pragmatism

C.S. Peirce: How to Make Our Ideas Clear.

William James: *Pragmatism*. Ch. 6.

Huw Price: *Naturalism Without Mirrors*. Introduction.

Session 2: Open Question in Pragmatism

Robert Kraut: Robust Deflationism.

Simon Blackburn: Pragmatism: all or some?

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Huw Price/D. Macarthur: Pragmatism, Quasi-realism and the Global Challenge.

Session 3: Examples in Pragmatism

Thomas Hobbes: *Leviathan* (excerpt).

Frank Ramsey: Facts and Propositions (excerpt).

Simon Blackburn: Wittgenstein's Irrealism

Seminar 4: Naturalism & the Fact-Value Distinction

J.J.C. Smart: Ruth Anna Putnam and the Fact-Value Distinction

Michael Williams: How pragmatists can be local expressivists

James Dreier: Meta-Ethics and the Problem of Creeping Minimalism

Seminar 5: Pragmatism, Representation & Truth

Richard Rorty: The World Well Lost

Huw Price/Frank Jackson: Naturalism and the Fate of the M-Worlds

Robert Kraut: Norm and Object

Seminar 6: Roundup. Unfinished Business. Future Prospects