

# Spring 2011: advanced course 'Topics in Semantics and Ontology: Minor Entities'

**Time:** Thursdays, from 16.30 to 19.30

Starting on March the 3rd!

**Place:** salle de réunion LSCP-IJN, pavillon jardin  
29 rue d'Ulm, 75005 Paris

## Description:

In this seminar we will discuss a range of philosophical views and linguistic applications of what some philosophers call 'minor entities', such as events, facts, states, and tropes (particularized properties). We will in particular discuss lesser known ontological conceptions of such entities as well as selected recent linguistic work that relates to them. In the second part of the seminar we will discuss the ontology of the corresponding mental entities, such as mental states, events, or qualia and how it may manifest itself in linguistic constructions.

**Prerequisites:** Basic knowledge in linguistic semantics and / or philosophy of language.

**Validation:** Paper (10-15 pp.) on relevant topic.

## Schedule:

### First Part

#### **March 3:**

Tropes, Events, Facts, States of Affairs, States: An Overview of their Linguistic and Philosophical Motivations and their Basic properties

- Suggested readings:
  - Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: '[Tropes](#)' (Bacon, J.), '[Events](#)' (Casati, R. & Varzi, A.), '[Facts](#)' (Mulligan, K. & Correia, F.), '[Situations in Natural Language Semantics](#)' (Kratzer, A.)
- [\[Handout\]](#)

#### **March 17:**

Minor Entities, their Relation to Space and Time, and Predicates of Existence

- Suggested readings:
  - Fine, F. (2006): 'In Defense of Three-Dimensionalism'. *Journal of Philosophy*, CIII, 12, 699-714
  - Moltmann, F. (to appear): 'Existence Predicates'. In Reich I. (ed.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 15*, Saarbruecken (available on this website)
- [\[Handout\]](#)

#### **March 31:**

Philosophical Views of Tropes and Kinds of Tropes

- Suggested readings:

- Campbell, C. (1981): 'The Metaphysics of Abstract Particulars'. Reprinted in Mellor, D.H. & Oliver A. (eds), *Properties*, Oxford UP, 1997
- Williams, D.C. (1953): 'On the Elements of Being'. *Review of Metaphysics*, 7, 3-18
- Moltmann, F. (2009): 'Degree Structure as Trope Structure. A Trope-Based Approach to the semantics of Positive and Comparative Adjectives'. *Linguistics and Philosophy*, 31, 51-94

- [\[Handout\]](#)

**April 7:**

Tropes and Universals

- Suggested readings:
  - Moltmann, F. (2004): 'Properties and Kinds of Tropes: New Linguistic Facts and Old Philosophical Insights'. *Mind*, 113, 1-43
  - Manley, D. (2002): 'Properties and Resemblance Classes'. *Nous*, 36, 75-96

**Second Part**

**May 5:**

Tropes, Events, and States and their Relation to Space and Time

- [\[Handout\]](#)

**May 12:**

Tropes with Intensional Bearers

- [\[Handout\]](#)

**May 19:**

Tropes with Intensional Bearers

- [\[Handout\]](#)

**May 26:**

Tropes, Events, States, and Facts and Truthmakers

- [\[Handout\]](#)

**June 2: cancelled (holiday)**

Issues in the Philosophy of Mind: The Objects of Perception