

Compact Seminar 'State Space Semantics'
Kit Fine (NYU) (avec Friederike Moltmann)
June 1-3, 2010

(In connection with the third Semantics and Philosophy in Europe colloquium
(SPE3), Paris, May 27-29 2010)

IHPST, Grande Salle
13 rue du Four,
75006, Paris

Time:

June 1: 14.30 - 16.30 (preparatory session (Moltmann)), 17.00 - 20.00

June 2: 10.30-12.30, 14.30 - 17.00

June 3: 10.30-12.30, 14.30 - 17.00

Seminar Description: 'State Space Semantics'

I propose an alternative to the usual ontology and semantics of possible worlds, in which possible worlds give way to possible states of affairs. These possible states have a rich logical and mereological structure, which can be exploited in giving a more satisfactory semantics for a variety of kinds of sentences. I will discuss various linguistic applications of state space semantics: to the semantics of questions, scalar implicatures, adverbial qualification in the context of a Davidsonian event semantics, anaphora and definite descriptions within a situation-based approach, as well as counterfactuals. The preparatory session will discuss current views of situations and events with their main applications to linguistic semantics

Reading material, including a number of unpublished papers by Kit Fine, will be distributed to registered participants.