

CAFÉ CONVERSATIONS AUTUMN '11

PHILOSOPHY SERIES		OCTOBER
<p>What is philosophy?</p> <p>Historically most sciences have developed out of philosophy. But how are we to understand the identity of philosophy itself? Is philosophy a science? If so, what is the object of investigation and what are its methods? If not, what sort of an inquiry is philosophy? These questions will guide the opening conversation of our series.</p>	Oskari Kuusela	<p>Wed 12 Oct 12.30 Take 5 Cafe, 17 Tombland NR3 1HF</p>
<p>Philosophy and the environment</p> <p>Are our reasons for protecting the natural environment simply self-interested? What are the links between our environmental concerns and the aesthetic appreciation of nature? How should environmental policy decisions be made in the face of inconclusive scientific evidence? We shall discuss these questions to find out what a philosophical approach may contribute to environmental debates.</p>	Angela Breitenbach	<p>Wed 19 Oct 13.30 Take 5 Cafe, 17 Tombland NR3 1HF</p>
<p>Why aren't perfect fakes worth the same as the originals?</p> <p>If a fake painting is molecule-for-molecule identical to an original masterpiece, why should a fake should be worth less - aesthetically and monetarily - than the original? If we think the fake is worth less does this mean we are hallucinating certain aesthetic virtues and vices? Confusing the interest of a painting with its associations? Muddling historical with aesthetic interest? Being pretentious and snobbish? In this conversation Mark will test out his idea that we can think that identical fakes are worth much less than originals without falling into any of these errors.</p>	Mark Rowe	<p>Fri 28 Oct 20.00 Marzano's, Forum</p>
		NOVEMBER
<p>Philosophy against depression</p> <p>Many people have strong ideas about what makes a person valuable and life worthwhile. Few of us make them explicit. But most of us fall ill when we, rightly or wrongly, feel that our lives fall short of our ideals, and this discrepancy is a major source of depression. Some of the ideals and assumptions that have frequently proven depressogenic include: "My value as a person depends greatly on what others think of me." "Only people who are in some way outstanding are worthwhile." "If a person is not a success, then his life is meaningless." We will explore how one can intelligently question and assess these ethical assumptions which shape our lives.</p>	Eugen Fischer	<p>Fri 4 Nov 20.00 Marzano's, Forum</p>
<p>Philosophy of money and consumption</p> <p>We often accept economic practices as a given. Yet we have a financial market in which intangible 'goods' like public debt can be bought and sold. We have transactions that allow people to make profits by merely purchasing and reselling currencies, i.e. independently of the production or ownership of any valuable goods. These aspects of the economy have an obvious impact on our life: globally, they shape governmental policies; locally they mould the values that we attach to money and wealth. We will provoke you to think about these problems, from both a philosophical and an economic standpoint.</p>	Davide Rizza & David Rojo Arjona	<p>Fri 11 Nov 20.00 Marzano's, Forum</p>
<p>What is freedom?</p> <p>We think of freedom as perhaps the most valuable thing there is, but what IS freedom? Is it one thing, or many? Is it even a coherent idea? Let's find out together!</p>	Rupert Read	<p>Wed 16 Nov 12.30 Take 5 Cafe, 17 Tombland NR3 1HF</p>