Topics in Philosophy of Imagination

Course Code: 34I0175
MA3, Room: B104
Thursdays, 10-12

Instructors
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Imagination is one of the most philosophically interesting faculties that humans have, as well as one of the least well-understood. It is difficult to define, yet it facilitates our interactions with the past, the future, the possible, the fictional, and the actual. In this course we will consider a number of issues related to the philosophy of imagination, including topics in the history of philosophy, philosophy of mind, aesthetics, epistemology, philosophy of science, and cognitive science.

Objectives
Since imagination is a concept that is discussed in many different disciplines, this course will expose students to issues in subfields other than their own, as well as enable students to research imagination (or a closely related topic) in a way that is relevant to their own philosophical interests. The course will help to develop critical reading, presentation and discussion skills.

Evaluation
The MA3 module requires either one final essay (~50 000 words, 25 pages), or two shorter essays (each ~25 000 words). Successful papers will display a thorough understanding of the philosophical issues and relevant texts, clarity of exposition; and quality of argument. Students will choose their own topics, which the instructors must approve at least 2 weeks before submission. The papers will be defended via oral examination.

Discussion
Students are requested to come to each class with 2-3 questions for discussion.

Meeting Schedule

Week 1, 20.02.2020: Introduction, overview of course and syllabus


Week 2, 27.02.2020: Quick Historical Survey of Western Philosophy of Imagination


**Week 3, 05.03.2020:** Philosophy of Mind: Can we Define Imagination?


**Week 4, 12.03.2020:** Philosophy of Mind: Imagination and Memory


**Week 5, 19.03.2020:** Epistemology


**Week 6, 26.03.2020:** Cognitive Science


**Week 7, 02.04.2020:** Philosophy of Science


**Week 8, 09.04.2020:** Aesthetics: Fiction and Imagination


**Optional:** Matravers, Derek, 2014, *Fiction and Narrative*, Oxford University Press, chapter 3.


**Week 9, 23.04.2020:** Aesthetics: Fiction, Imagination, Emotion


**Week 10, 30.04.2020:** Creativity and Imagination
**Required Reading:** Gaut, Berys, 2003: “Creativity and Imagination”, in Gaut, Berys and Livingston, Pailsey (eds.): *The Creation of Art*, 148-173


**Week 11, 07.05.2020:** Ethics


**Week 12, 14.05.2020:** Non-Western approaches


**Week 13, 21.05.2020:** Perspective taking/Empathy
