

Experience Day Philosophy: Global and Comparative Perspectives

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Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Introduction

A student of Philosophy: Global and Comparative Perspectives will tell you about your first year at this programme.

Lecture

Title

Intercultural philosophical hermeneutics

Short description

As individuals, we so often go about our busy schedules without the slightest glance in another's direction, especially if that person is different from us. But what if we were to stop, look around, and realize that we can do great things together? Sadly, this is easier said than done – or is it? Maybe it just takes a first step to look at intercultural philosophy through a hermeneutic lens systematically. This short lecture will investigate the intersection between philosophy and culture as a hermeneutic practice. We will explore the role of culture in interpreting and mobilizing ideas. How we conduct business, establish and maintain interpersonal relationships, keep ourselves healthy, and our value of education all hinges on intercultural synergy? The following key questions will dominate our conversations: What is the relationship between ethics and intercultural philosophy? What is the significance of hermeneutics in interculturality? Does intercultural difference mean the absence of philosophical coherence in other traditions? What are some barriers that keep us from appreciating cultural differences? Could hermeneutics help us overcome such barriers? Intercultural philosophical hermeneutics is about the influence of culture on the course of the interpretation of ideas and the influence of ideas on the development of philosophies and culture.

Lecturer: Dr. Michael Onyebuchi Eze (m.o.eze@hum.leidenuniv.nl)

Michael Onyebuchi Eze teaches global and comparative Philosophy at Leiden University. He was educated in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Nigeria, Germany, England, and the USA. He has a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Studies from Cambridge University and a second Ph.D. (Summa Cum Laude) in History and Cultural Reflection from Universität Witten-Herdecke, Germany. He has an MA in Philosophy from the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and BA Honours in Philosophy and Religious Studies from Arrupe Jesuit University and the University of Zimbabwe. He is working on two books: *Political Justice Beyond Decolonization* and *I am because of you: A theory of Human Reconciliation*.

Seminar

Title

Carnap versus metaphysics

Short description

Rudolf Carnap (1891-1970) was one of the founders of logical-positivism, a philosophical movement that originated in Austria and Germany but was then to have an enormous influence on English-speaking philosophy. In the early text 'The Elimination of Metaphysics through Logical Analysis of Language' (originally published in 1932 in German as 'Überwindung der Metaphysik durch Logische Analyse der Sprache'), Carnap argues that the traditional metaphysical problems of philosophy aren't real problems. They are merely confusions generated by a lack of insight into our language. Logical analysis will therefore allow us not to answer these questions, but to get rid of them for once and for all. Understanding Carnap's proposal and its strengths and weaknesses is not only interesting in its own right, but also important for our understanding of the development of philosophy in the 20th century.

Lecturer: Dr. Victor Gijbers (v.gijbers@hum.leidenuniv.nl)

Victor Gijbers studied physics and philosophy, then did a PhD on the philosophy of explanation. He is currently working on metaphysical topics like time, causation, perception, and possibility. He also has an interest in the theoretical philosophy of Kant, and translated Wittgenstein's *Tractatus* into Dutch.

Q&A

Do you have any questions regarding the programme? The student will answer them all at the Q&A.

Preparation

For the lecture, think about the following questions:

- 1) Are people from different cultures than ours strange, or is that our perception?
- 2) Are cultural differences even important to most people's individual lives?
- 3) In what ways do ethics have to do with cross-cultural communication?
- 4) What is the importance of learning about other cultures?
- 5) What are some barriers that keep us from appreciating cultural differences?
- 6) What is culture shock, and how can I help myself and others adjust?

For the seminar, please read Carnap's text, which can be found at <http://www.ditext.com/carnap/elimination.html>. It would be very convenient if you can bring a copy, either on paper or digitally. As you read the text, attempt to answer the following three questions: (1) What is the meaning of language based on, according to Carnap? (2) If metaphysics is meaningless, as Carnap argues, how is it possible that so many people have done metaphysics without noticing this? (3) Do you agree with Carnap? Why, or why not?