Introduction:

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

Lecture:

Title: The Person is not a Self: Metaphysics of the Individual in Indian Buddhism

Short description:

The talk discusses early Buddhist views about what a person is, and their arguments that persons are not enduring unified selves (ātman). It considers the relation between these claims and the Buddhist commitment to ending suffering (duḥkha).

Lecturer: Dr. S.E. Harris (s.e.harris@phil.leidenuniv.nl)

Stephen Harris is Assistant Professor (Universitair Docent) at Leiden University, where he teaches in the Institute for Philosophy and the International B.A. program. He has also taught philosophy at the University of New Mexico and the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. He specializes in Cross-Cultural and Indian philosophy, with a particular interest in Buddhist ethical texts.

Seminar:

Title: Digital agents, digital environments

Short description:

In this lecture, we will discuss two challenges that contemporary digital technologies present to ethics.

What happens when the classical idea of the ethical agent as the free and conscious subject of his or her actions is applied to automatic systems? Could a robot be an ethical subject, too? Why is it problematic to speak of a digital system as an ethical agent? Why is it more rewarding to examine contemporary digital systems in terms of environments? An environment is not an ethical agent but something that ethical agents need to take care of. What does it mean to take care of digital environments?

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. S.E. Lindberg (s.e.lindberg@phil.leidenuniv.nl)

Susanna Lindberg is professor of Continental Philosophy at Leiden University. She teaches and conducts research in continental philosophy from German Idealism, Phenomenology and Poststructuralism until contemporary developments.

Q&A:

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

Preparation:

No homework for this course.