

Experience Day Philosophy: Global and Comparative Perspectives



Universiteit
Leiden
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Introduction

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

Lecture

Title

Playing for Meaning

Short description

“In this talk, I would like to explore the phenomenon of play as a resource to confront the modern nihilistic condition. According to Nietzsche, nihilism is the experience of meaninglessness that results from the discovery that the meaningfulness of our lives is not underpinned in reality. This condition therefore relies on one metaphysical thesis: there is no entity able to underpin the meaning in our lives, and one hermeneutic thesis: meaning must be underpinned in the intrinsic properties of an object. This latter claim is entirely undermined by an examination of the phenomenon of play. Play, on the contrary, can remind us of the human capacity to experience meaning without any reference to metaphysical truths, and as such, it has the power extirpate us from the current nihilistic condition, and to understand better the role that many of our cultural practices and institutions still play in maintaining this depressing nihilism.”

Lecturer: Dr. Frank Chouraqui (f.chouraqui@phil.leidenuniv.nl)

Frank Chouraqui is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Leiden (Netherlands). He is the author of *Ambiguity and the Absolute* (Fordham University Press, 2014) and *The Body and Embodiment: A Philosophical Guide* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2020) as well as several articles on phenomenological and political ontology and Nietzsche. He teaches courses in phenomenology and metaphysics in all the programmes of Philosophy at Leiden.

Seminar

Title

Knowing other minds in ancient Chinese thought

Short description

Short introduction to the topic: Can we know other minds? This question has also been raised in Chinese antiquity when ancient thinkers strove to contextualise personal well-being in the flourishing of their community. The knowledge of other minds, thus, becomes crucial for personal and interpersonal flourish. In this tutorial, students will examine two cases. The first example is a thought experiment in a Confucian text that investigates how and why people feel alarmed upon seeing a child who is about to fall in a well. And the second example unfolds through a conversation between two friends who could not agree with one another on what they can know about the joyful fish. The purpose of the discussion is to explore why the self and the other are interdependent without losing their respective identity.

Lecturer: Dr. Jingjing Li (j.li@hum.leidenuniv.nl)

Jingjing Li is a University Lecturer of Chinese and Comparative Philosophy at Leiden University's Institute for Philosophy.

Q&A

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

Preparation

The two examples can be found on YouTube.

The joyful fish (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nMCrj3soDU&t=378s>);

The child falling in a well (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvmxbDomk90&t=1s>)