

**From:** British Wittgenstein Society [[bws@herts.ac.uk](mailto:bws@herts.ac.uk) ]

**Subject:** Newsletter no.5

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1 September 2009  
BWS Newsletter Issue no 5

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## About BWS

BWS is a British focal point for research and exchange of ideas among Wittgenstein scholars and students throughout the world.

This Newsletter will be sent exclusively to members of the BWS, on a regular basis, in order to draw attention to updates on the website, or to share as yet unpublished news.

If philosophy is an activity, then the lecture hall at Hatfield's De Havilland campus briefly became the equivalent of Wimbledon's centre court during the heady days of John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg. The serve and volley of the more scientifically-orientated philosophers battled it out with the baseline game of those who wished to draw

## Nota Bene

*Britt Harrison, bursar (2008-2011), on the BWS Conference*

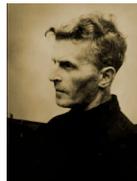


The Second BWS Conference built unhesitatingly on the success of last year's inaugural conference. The Society's ambitions to re-situate and reinvigorate Wittgensteinian discussion and insight are clearly something for which there is not just a taste, but a hunger.

Entitled 'Wittgenstein and Naturalism', the conference was held at the University of Hertfordshire on 13-14 June, and welcomed 94 delegates from universities across the UK and all over the world: Germany, Canada, the United States, Spain, Holland, Israel, Belgium, Switzerland.

The conference was opened by the Society's President, Dr Danièle Moyal-Sharrock, with an impassioned summoning to the philosophical adventure ahead. The luminary line-up of speakers – John Searle, Lynne Rudder Baker, David Papineau, Anthony Kenny, Meredith Williams, P.M.S. Hacker, Owen Flanagan, Daniel D. Hutto, Jesse Prinz and Williams Child – embraced the conference theme with equal parts of philosophical gusto and generosity.

It was a conference where 'isms' abounded: multiplying, splintering off into sub-isms, being embraced, claimed, rejected and downright spurned. John Searle's dog, Gilbert, and his various ball-catching beliefs featured significantly and Gilbert will no doubt find himself the subject of future philosophical referencing, along with Russell. The other dog.



lines of philosophical demarcation elsewhere in the intellectual sand. For me, the highlight of a terrific weekend, was the commitment and courtesy with which Peter Hacker and Jesse Prinz exchanged views on what might or might not be philosophy. A question whose importance seemed to go to the very heart and point of the conference. That and the new jargon-busting technical term introduced by John Searle and bedded in by Lynne Rudder Baker: 'Bonkers!'

Chairing the talks this year was a particular demanding task with so many eager respondents and questioners prompted by the provocative talks. Laurence Goldstein took the role to new heights when he pointed out that [Jesse Prinz's hair](#) showed just how being both blue and green all over might actually be an empirical and not just a grammatical matter. This spot of philosophy occurring between the talks was just one example of the rich discussion had by all the delegates over coffee and cakes, and the terrific dinner on Saturday night.

Next year's conference, 'Wittgenstein and Aesthetics' will be held in Southampton, beginning the BWS's peripatetic task to spread the Wittgensteinian word to all points of the compass.

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## Second BWS conference pictures

Here are some of the conference speakers and chairmen in action. We are immensely grateful to Chris Elenbaas for these pictures which show just how fully engaged everybody was.



Lynne Rudder Baker



William Child



Owen Flanagan



Daniel D. Hutto



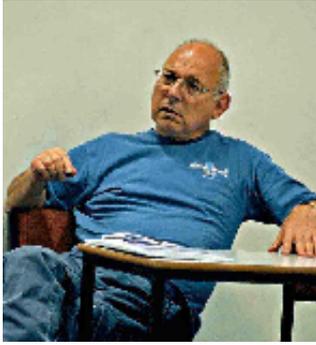
Anthony Kenny



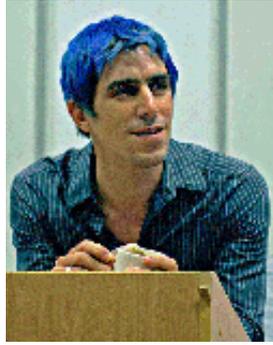
Peter Hacker



Ray Monk and Peter Hacker



Laurence Goldstein



Jesse Prinz



John Searle



Meredith Williams

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## Proceedings

Proceedings of the BWS Inaugural Conference (2008): 'The Third Wittgenstein'  
Publication is scheduled for the December 2009 issue of *Philosophia* : 37:4.

However, separate papers are already available for viewing on the [Philosophia](#) website . Go to their [Online First Articles Available](#) page, and search down for papers by Canfield, Cioffi, Glock, Goldstein, Hutto, Moyal-Sharrock (Intro), Pleasants, Stroll, ter Hark.

A reduced price for the issue is being negotiated for BWS members. We will let members know as soon as we do.

The Proceedings of the second BWS Conference (2009) will be published in the *American Philosophical Quarterly*. We will update you on that sometime in 2010.

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## Notes

### Third BWS Conference

We can now announce the title of the third BWS conference, which is 'Wittgenstein and Aesthetics' and will be held at the University of Southampton 28 - 29 June 2010.

### BWS Online Bibliography

We'd like to remind everyone to send lists or single bibliography entries of their own (or others') publications (articles, books, etc.) on Wittgenstein to [Costas](#) -- simple references will do (titles, dates, publishers) -- no annotations or formatting needed.

### New committee member

We're delighted to welcome Rom Harre to the BWS Honorary Committee

## The lecture series

### More details on the forthcoming lecture programme

*Autumn Lecture 2 November 2009*

**Rom Harré: Are there moral hinges?**

Professor Harré is Distinguished Professor in the Psychology Department of Georgetown University (Washington DC) and Director of the Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science at the London School of Economics. Distinguished philosopher and psychologist, Prof. Harré has written on a wide variety of subjects including: philosophy of mathematics, philosophy of science, philosophy of psychology, epistemology, ontology, sociology, anthropology, psychology. His recent publications include *Pavlov's Dogs and Schrodinger's Cat: Scenes from the living laboratory* (OUP, 2009); *Key Thinkers in Psychology* (Sage, 2006); (with M. Tisaw) *Wittgenstein and Psychology* (Ashgate, 2005).



More details are on the [lecture page](#) of the website.

**Spring Lecture 5 May 2010: Professor Dale Jacquette**

Professor at the University of Bern and researches on philosophical logic, metaphysics, and philosophy of mind.

**Autumn Lecture 2010: Professor Frank Cioffi**

Title: Was Wittgenstein right to call science a trap?

All lectures will be followed by a wine reception. These are complimentary, but advance registration is required once the announcement has been sent.



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## The BWS website

### Updates

This quarter we have rearranged the Reviews page - which is bursting with short reviews as well as lengthy critical appraisals. New reviewers are coming forward and we welcome any contributions to this page, which is becoming an impressive archive of comment on recent books on Wittgenstein. Contact [ca356@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ca356@cam.ac.uk) if you would like to contribute.



The Upcoming Events page on the website is constantly changing to show current seminars and conferences. Please let us know of your own Wittgenstein-related events, conferences, or lectures anywhere in the world.

The BWS website is designed and maintained by [Jane Dörner](#).

## BWS Executive Committee



Dr Danièle Moyal-Sharrock, *President*  
University of Hertfordshire  
Department of Philosophy  
Hatfield, Herts AL10 9AB



Dr John Preston, *Secretary*  
Department of Philosophy  
The University of Reading  
Whiteknights  
Reading RG6 6AA



Professor Daniel D Hutto,  
*Treasurer*  
University of Hertfordshire  
Department of Philosophy  
Hatfield, Herts AL10 9AB



Dr Constantinos Athanasopoulos, *Editor*  
Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies Wesley House,  
Jesus Lane Cambridge, CB5 8BJ

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