Dear reader/ BWS Member,

Welcome to the BWS Newsletter

Our aim is to ensure that Ludwig Wittgenstein’s philosophy continues to play a fertile and creative role in 21st century thought.

The British Wittgenstein Society aspires to provide, through its annual conference and biannual lecture series, a British focal point for research and exchange of ideas among Wittgenstein scholars and students throughout the world.

It also seeks to address, in its conference themes, the many other disciplines (psychology, anthropology, sociology, education sciences, aesthetics etc.) that Wittgenstein’s work has impacted and will continue to impact.
2016 has been a time of growth and change for the BWS.

Our new website has steadily developed and enhanced and features a wealth of Wittgenstein related news, events and resources. Via its new registration process, nearly 100 new members from all over the world have joined the Society. Our facebook page, for more informal discussion of Wittgenstein-related issues, has grown from around 700 to over (a vetted) 2000.

We are delighted to welcome Chon Tejedor as our new editor. With that change and to reflect their distinctive contributions to the Society's work, Ian Ground has become Vice-President, and Constantine Sandis, Secretary.

We are looking forward to our next conference in Leeds and plans are now underway for our 10th Anniversary conference – Wittgenstein in the 21st Century – in 2017 at the University of Hertfordshire.

Our thanks to you for your continuing support for the BWS mission of making clear the continuing and growing relevance of Wittgenstein's thought.

Features

Report on Fifteenth British Wittgenstein Society Lecture

The Interface between Wittgenstein's Philosophical Therapy and the Empirical Psychotherapies

Dr John Heaton

May 9th, 2016

The Bloomsbury Institute, 50 Bedford Square
London WC1B 3DP

Video

https://vimeo.com/166414707

The Fifteenth British Wittgenstein Society lecture was given by Dr. John Heaton at the Bloomsbury Institute, on a rainy spring day.

The lecture was very well attended – no surprise given that Dr. Heaton has been one of the key figures in reading Wittgenstein's philosophy as a therapeutic approach that critically avoids the problems of empirical psychotherapies.

According to Dr. Heaton, these problems arise because psychotherapists fail to draw certain critical distinctions. These
distinctions were said to be between:

- facts and concepts;
- external and internal relations;
- science and craft;
- laws of nature and logical laws.

More specifically, Dr. Heaton presented a number of ways in which Freud's theory falls prey to psychologism and scientific naturalism, mistaking, as Dr. Heaton claimed:

- the unconscious for an inner fact;
- the relation between a desire and an object for an external relation;
- the meaning of dreams for a hidden independent meaning awaiting to be discovered.

Following the lecture, discussion brought up a number of issues, points of disagreement and, for myself, questions about future directions, from a Wittgensteinian departure point, for philosophical thought about psychoanalysis.

The first issue concerned Dr. Heaton's preferred account of the concept of the unconscious. Dr. Heaton replied that he would follow Ryle on this: there is no such thing as the unconscious, and he suggested we should restrict ourselves to the adverbial use of the word (unconsciously). Certainly the adverbial use avoids the confusion that would arise from turning "Nobody" into "Mr. Nobody" (as Wittgenstein famously put it in the Blue Book). I worried though that, applied in this way, the adverbial move would entail that a whole range of important problems must be rejected as nonsensical.

By the term 'unconscious', psychoanalysts have referred not merely to some spookily hidden mental realm, but also to something that is actively expressed in one's symptoms, in one's parapraxes, in one's slips of the tongue, namely in thoughts, desires, acts that are (and this is the crucial point) not recognized as one's own. A series of problems begins at this very point, when one feels inclined to say 'This belief or thought is not mine, it comes from the unconscious' or 'I am overcome by something alien, this is not me' or when one asks 'where did this desire come from?'. Dr. Heaton understands our talk of symptoms, intrusive thoughts, alien desires as nonsense, as an attempt to say something beyond the limits of language.

But this raises precisely the problem of what we can and should say about unintelligibility and nonsense. One could here think of Cora Diamond's work on nonsense, that has allowed Wittgensteinians to dare to reflect on 'nonsensical' talk, rather than do away with it. Reflecting on aberrant talk can give rise to questions such as: what does it mean to not recognize a mental state as one's own? What makes a thought or a desire mine? What does self-alienation tell us about the nature of mental states? Important work has been done in this domain by Moran, Frankfurt, Pickard and others.

Another psychoanalytic concept Dr. Heaton focuses on and rejects as nonsensical is the meaning of dreams or symptoms. Dr. Heaton was surely right to stress that, from a Wittgensteinian perspective, we find the meaning of an utterance by looking at the context of its use so that the meaning of dreams or symptoms does not need to be thought of as hidden. But, perhaps here is where the real difficulty lies. In The Interpretation of Dreams Freud stresses that dreams are asocial, they have nothing to communicate and they are not made with the intention to be understood. This seems to be here a challenge to the notion of linguistic meaning that Dr. Heaton has in mind.

Freud tried to understand the workings of the mind, and in doing so, Dr. Heaton rightly remarked, he often uncritically borrowed words and expressions from the science of his day metaphorically extending them to the phenomena he was examining. However, pace Heaton, this does not necessarily compel us to take these concepts literally and throw them away as confused, but we can perhaps attempt to work our way through these metaphors as metaphors.

Another question arising in the discussion concerned the question of whether Dr. Heaton account of psychoanalysis gave sufficient importance to the concept of transference. Dr. Heaton remarked that although freie einfall - free association - is important for Freud, there is a tendency in received accounts to block any real free association, through the imposition of general theory on the particularity of patients. In a case study offered by Dr. Heaton, a psycho-analyst had announced to his patient that "her mind had been successfully analyzed". True as that particular story may be, it
sounds like a rather crude example of psychoanalysis. What Dr. Heaton himself describes as important, yet missing from psychoanalysis, namely what he calls the therapeutic alliance, is in fact central in psychoanalysis. After all, Freud had a name for that phenomenon. He used the term transference (and countertransference) to describe the redirection of feelings and the repetition of past relationships that takes place through a rich exchange of emotions between an analyst and an analysand.

It seemed important to me to recall that the same Freud who shares the scientism of his day wrote, in a letter to Jung, that psychoanalysis is a cure through love. This is an aspect of psychoanalysis that seemed to me to have deserved greater emphasis and together with the philosophical problems of the unconscious, requires further reflection.

A final question in the discussion challenged Dr. Heaton's distinction between desire and craving. Dr. Heaton claimed that Freud conflated desire with craving. Dr. Heaton urged us to recognize that desire involves an internal relation with its object but craving bears only an external relation to it. The objection was whether there can really be such a clear distinction between desire and craving and whether our words forced to be unnatural when such distinctions are imposed.

Undoubtedly Dr. Heaton's lecture offered a stimulating Wittgensteinian critique of psychologism and scientific naturalism, using a series of clear-cut distinctions. I was left wondering to what extent these distinctions are the final word or whether they should instead be treated as rungs on a Wittgensteinian ladder.

It is perhaps relevant here to recall that, challenging the sharp distinction between reasons and causes, Jonathan Lear has invited us to think of psychoanalysis as a science of subjectivity, one that incorporates the first person perspective, whose importance Dr. Heaton very rightly stresses.

How to conceive of such a thing would perhaps look like a Fragestellung, to use one of the lecture's themes, but it would certainly invite us to go back to the rough ground of ordinary life and dare to engage philosophically with the perhaps problematic, but not necessarily wrong, metaphors that psychoanalysis uses to understand the complexities of human existence.

ABOUT THE REPORTER

Maria Balaska

Dr. Maria Balaska gained her PhD in Philosophy from Paris 8 University in 2014. She is currently Head of Philosophy at the Sutton Grammar School, London. Her main research interests include Ethics, Aesthetics, Wittgenstein's philosophy and psychoanalytic theory.

See more BWS Lecture Series videos

Read more.
Dr Morris's work focuses on phenomenology (particularly of the human body), medical anthropology, Descartes, Merleau-Ponty, Sartre, and Wittgenstein. Her publications include (with Gordon Baker) Descartes' Dualism; an edited volume of articles by Gordon Baker, entitled Wittgenstein's Method; a collection on Sartre on the Body. She is currently completing a book on Merleau-Ponty.

Find out more »
Stephen Mulhall (Oxford)
Wayne Proudfoot (Columbia)
Duncan Richter (Virginia M.I.)
Genia Schoenbaumsfeld (Southampton)
Michael Scott (Manchester)
Chon Tejedor (Hertfordshire)
Rowan Williams (Cambridge)

Looking forward to seeing you there! (and for those who can't join us, please note that we hope to have videos posted on our conference video page)

Read more.
The editor, Martin Pilch prepared these highly sophisticated transcriptions with the aim of providing the best possible textual basis for facilitating the reconstruction of the composition process of the Tractatus text. PTT utilizes a multiplicity of representation formats and colour schemes in order to make various aspects of the Tractatus text genesis visible. An extension of the site is planned, and transcriptions of the Tractatus typescript Ts-202 are already in preparation.

Check PTT out on Wittgenstein Source!

Read more.

Wittgenstein in Linz and Birmingham: Art Project

Upcoming international artist exchange programme between qujOchÖ artist collective based in Linz, Austria and A3 Project Space & BOM Birmingham, UK. More details.

All photos: Thomas Philipp

PROJECT OUTLINE

From 1903 to 1906 Wittgenstein attended the technically oriented K.u.k. Realschule in Linz, a small state school with 300 pupils in Upper Austria. Afterwards he began to study at the Technische Hochschule in Charlottenburg, moved further to the Victoria University of Manchester and finally visited the University of Cambridge to study under Russell from 1911 to 1913. During this time it is widely regarded that Wittgenstein has fallen in love with David Hume Pinsent, a descendant of the philosopher David Hume.

In 1913 the Lordswood House in 44 Lordswood, Birmingham, was the family home of Pinsent. On the eve of his self-imposed exile to Norway and just after a holiday there with Pinsent, Wittgenstein stayed with the Pinsent family to say his goodbyes. The last time they saw each other was at a Birmingham railway station on 8 October 1913, when they said goodbye before Wittgenstein left to live in Norway.

GOODBYE WITTGENSTEIN wants to take this short little story as a starting point for an exchange program between Linz and Birmingham. The basic idea is to dig deeper into this story and to find real or fictive connections between Linz and Birmingham, based on the life of Wittgenstein. The main aim is to pay tribute to one of the most important philosophers of the 20th century and revive his life in Birmingham and Linz.

Following an invitation from A3 Project Space and Birmingham Open Media, the Austrian art collective qujOchÖ from Linz will visit Birmingham between 25 July and 7 August 2016 to enact a series of philosophical set pieces in response to Wittgenstein’s writings, in particular his early work on “Notes on Logic”. During their stay three members of qujOchÖ, Verena Henetmayr, Thomas Philipp and Andre Zogholy, will undertake a series of artistic interventions in public spaces throughout the city. They will also present their ideas as part of a discussion and networking event at BOM on August 1 and participate in the monthly art event Digbeth First Friday on August 4 2016.

Following this visit, five artists from Birmingham, Pete Ashton, Mike Johnston, Trevor Pitt, Emily Warner and Clare Thornton will participate in a four week residency at Atelierhaus Salzamt Linz in November 2016. During their residency the artists will explore the trails of Wittgenstein in Linz and develop the beginnings of new works that make connections between art and philosophy based on “Notes on Logic”.

Wittgenstein's Whewell's Court Lectures

Press release from: Austrian Science Fund FWF

PR Agency: PR&D

In a project supported by the Austrian Science Fund FWF, the analysis of hitherto unpublished lecture notes from a student and friend of Wittgenstein's has resulted in an important publication providing new insights into central issues of the philosophers' work.

The pieces are slowly coming together to form a picture. – Decades after the death of one of the 20th century's most influential philosophers, scientists are still discovering hitherto unpublished manuscripts from Ludwig Wittgenstein's milieu. During his life, the philosopher who was born in Vienna (1889) published a single work that made him famous: the "Tractatus logico-philosophicus". Many of his other texts existed only as manuscripts and were published only after his death in 1951. The Wittgenstein Archives in Bergen (Norway) is currently working on an open-access edition of his philosophical manuscripts, known as "Wittgenstein's Nachlass": www.wittgensteinsource.org

Hitherto unpublished lecture notes

Volker Munz from the Department of Philosophy at the University of Klagenfurt (Carinthia) has taken a new approach to the work of the thinker who spent most of his life in Cambridge. Thanks to contacts Munz established to the administrators of Wittgenstein's estate during his study years in Wales in the late 1980s, more than 2,000 typescripts from a student and close friend of Wittgenstein's came into his possession. The notes were taken by Yorick Smythies during lectures given by Wittgenstein in Cambridge between 1938 and 1941. With support from the Austrian Science Fund FWF, Volker Munz and his assistant Bernhard Ritter have been carefully editing these notes of varying format and quality over the last ten years. They added introductions and references to Wittgenstein's published writings and put dates against the notes. "Dating was one of the greatest challenges, since most of the material lacked any direct indication as to time", explains Munz, who nevertheless succeeded in ascertaining with a high degree of probability the year and even the term in which each set of notes was taken.

New insights in central issues

"What is special about this project is the fact that no other student notes are extant from that period, except the lectures on aesthetics and on the foundations of mathematics. Hence they open additional insight into what Wittgenstein was working on during those years", emphasises Munz. Unlike Wittgenstein, Smythies gave titles to all lectures. They concern central issues such as knowledge, belief, similarity or freedom of the will. The notes also mention discussions of authors, a rare occurrence in Wittgenstein's work otherwise. Apart from Bertrand Russell, George E. Moore and William James, the philosopher discusses the theorems of Kurt Gödel, W. E. Johnson and the question whether there is "an infinite number of shades of colour", as well as David Hume's notion of 'belief'. The lectures also highlight the important role pictures and metaphors played in Wittgenstein's thinking. Moreover the notes contain new instances of the famous metaphor of the fly and the fly bottle and about 70 drawings by Wittgenstein which Smythies copied from the blackboard. "Many examples and issues touched upon in these notes were discussed only in a much more cryptic way in Wittgenstein's published works. This material now opens up new connections, and some trains of thought appear more stringent", project director Munz underlines the significance of the lecture notes.

International Wittgenstein research

Ludwig Wittgenstein's lectures and students' notes are of growing importance for research, as is a scholarly investigation of the generation that came after Wittgenstein. According to Munz, the international scientific community engages in frequent exchanges in this respect. Documents and works by and about Wittgenstein are preserved in
A research focus in Austria

"Until the 1970s, Wittgenstein was of little significance in Austria", Munz notes. It was only thanks to the philosopher Rudolf Haller that Wittgenstein became a figure of renown there. Haller was a co-founder of the Austrian Ludwig Wittgenstein Society in 1976, the year that also saw the first of what was to become an annual Wittgenstein Symposium in Kirchberg. Still today, this event is a fixture for Wittgenstein scholars, attracting several hundred participants from all over the world. 2009 marked the beginning of a Wittgenstein Summer School in Kirchberg under the scientific direction of Volker Munz, which has aroused strong interest.

Publication and further projects

The publication of Yorick Smythies' lecture notes is going to be an important contribution to the appreciation of Wittgenstein in general and will spark further exploration of the seminal body of work by this philosopher. The volume on the FWF research project will be published this year by Wiley-Blackwell under the title "The Whewell's Court Lectures, Cambridge 1938 – 1941". For Munz, this does not mean he considers his investigations of the topic as being finished. In talking about further projects, the researcher from the University of Klagenfurt relates that Smythies himself propounded a philosophy of his own which is still completely unknown and untypical of the Wittgenstein tradition. In addition, there are volumes of poems and a great number of notebooks by the Wittgenstein student which still await the researcher's attention.

Read more.

Dale Jacquette (1953-2016)

The BWS was deeply sorry to learn that Dale Jacquette has passed away. Dale was a superb individual, a passionate philosopher and an eminent Wittgensteinian. His love of philosophy and art was deep and infectious. He gave the Fourth BWS Biannual Lecture on 'Wittgenstein's Tractatus as Mystic Revelation'. Dale will be sorely missed, as a friend and philosopher. Our deepest condolences go to his beloved wife, Tina.

http://dailynous.com/2016/08/24/dale-jacquette-2016/

Read more.

Wittgenstein's Ledgerstone

With the generous support of its members, the BWS organises an annual maintenance of Wittgenstein's ledgerstone. Objects left by visitors are stored with the stonemason in the chapel workshop.

April, 2016
The BWS has made a video of how to locate the site.
Events

CFP: VON WRIGHT AND WITTGENSTEIN IN CAMBRIDGE

SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS:
VON WRIGHT CENTENARY SYMPOSIUM
CAMBRIDGE, SEPTEMBER 2016

Symposium Website

Georg Henrik von Wright (1916-2003) is known for his contributions to many key fields in analytic philosophy, as a builder of bridges between the analytic and the continental traditions in contemporary philosophy and as one of the main editors of the work of Ludwig Wittgenstein.

In 1948 von Wright succeeded Wittgenstein as professor of philosophy at Cambridge's Trinity College. He returned from Cambridge to Finland after Wittgenstein's death in 1951.

In this centenary year of Von Wright's birth, the symposium "Von Wright and Wittgenstein in Cambridge" will focus on the philosophical dynamics and consequences of the relation between von Wright and Wittgenstein with a special emphasis on von Wright as an interpreter and editor of Wittgenstein.

Date
September 20-23, 2016

Venue
Strathaird, Cambridge, UK

Strathaird is the house in which the von Wright family lived in Cambridge in 1949-1950. On several different occasions, Ludwig Wittgenstein also stayed at Strathaird as guest of the von Wright family. The house is now owned by Lucy Cavendish College.

Confirmed Speakers:
• Marco Brusotti (Lecce / Berlin)
• Alberto Emiliani (Helsinki)
There will be a workshop on 'A Collection of Remarks by Ludwig Wittgenstein - Selected by Georg Henrik von Wright (1965-1966)' organised by Volker Munz and Josef Rotthaupt in cooperation with the Von Wright and Wittgenstein Archives of the University of Helsinki.
University) Hans-Johann Glock (University of Zurich) Abstract submission deadline: April 15 2016 In the Preface of Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus, Wittgenstein writes that “the aim of the…

Newton Fund Conference on the Philosophies of Mind, Language & Action  
September 19 - September 23  
San Paulo, University of Sao Paulo  
Sao Paulo, SP 05508-010 Brazil + Google Map

Quine Lectures: John Searle (University of California, Berkeley) Keynote speakers: Luiz Henrique Dutra (Federal University of Santa Catarina) Michelle Montague (University of Texas, Austin) Marco Ruffino (State University of Campinas) Luiz Henrique L. dos Santos (University of Sao Paulo) Galen Strawson (University of Texas, Austin) José Zalabardo (University College London) Tutorials: André Bazzoni (University of Sao Paulo, University College London) Galen Strawson (University of Texas, Austin) José Zalabardo (University College London) Call for Abstracts: We invite 1-page abstracts in any…

Von Wright and Wittgenstein in Cambridge Symposium  
September 20 - September 23  
Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge, CB3 0BU United Kingdom + Google Map

OCTOBER 2017

Sixteenth Lecture - Dr Katherine Morris (Oxford University): "Wittgenstein and Merleau-Ponty on "lifeworld a prioris"")  
October 17, 2017 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
The Bloomsbury Institute, 50 Bedford Square  
London, WC1B 3DP United Kingdom + Google Map
Title: "Wittgenstein and Merleau-Ponty on "lifeworld a prioris" Dr Morris's work focuses on phenomenology (particularly of the human body), medical anthropology, Descartes, Merleau-Ponty, Sartre, and Wittgenstein. Her publications include (with Gordon Baker) Descartes' Dualism; an edited volume of articles by Gordon Baker, entitled Wittgenstein's Method; a collection on Sartre on the Body. She is currently completing a book on Merleau-Ponty.

Recent Books

2016


Our website is at www.britishwittgensteinsociety.org

Recent Changes

Since the launch of our new website:

• We have over 100 pages of Wittgenstein news, posts and resources, including 60 videos from BWS lectures and conferences.
• 100 new members have joined us via our online application form.
• We now working on integrating our book sections and review process into the site.

Facebook

The BWS Facebook Page, for informal discussion of Wittgenstein related issues and news has more than 2000 members.

Please follow the BWS on Twitter @BrittWittSoc.
What is a Language Game
Reserve that makes him shy
away from conflict
of interest
Compound and simple
minded approach to life
in the Old Dog still
waters run deep
and serious mind
the baby
of the family
resemblance between the cases
lost on the trip
over his words
of love
forty in the first game of the first set
the exam paper
over the problem
child of his time
waits for no man
the pumps
up the tire
of pointless rows
and rows of soldiers
on with determination
of the ship’s latitude
to implement the provisions
now running low
in the estimation
of the costs
the earth
wire is green
where cricket is played
the fish in a barrel
of laughs
the criticism off
and smelling high
wide and handsome
profit from the experience
is the teacher of all things
aren’t what they used to be
on top form
of life.
Your BWS Membership

We are always happy to receive news of Wittgenstein related events, publications and resources.

• Please let us know about events by emailing events@britishwittgensteinsociety.org
• Please let us know about publications by emailing editor@britishwittgensteinsociety.org
• Please let us know about Wittgenstein related links

You must be logged into the BWS site to use these services. Please appreciate we will not be able to post all announcements.

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