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.
To study a banyan tree
You not only must know
Its main stem in its own soil
But also trace the growth
Of its greatness in the further soil
For then you can know the true nature of its vitality
- Rabindranath Tagore

In temples and sacred places where, most commonly, it may be found, nothing grows under the Banyan tree. The plant begins life growing on other trees and eventually envelops them utterly. The branches and leaves come to form a dense canopy so luxurious that sunlight cannot struggle through. Other plants had better seek to grow far away where the soil is fresh and they can reach the light. But to think that the Banyan tree stifles growth is a mistake. What matters, ecologically, about the Banyan are not the leaves and branches but the root system. For those roots work to enrich the soil and the diversity of life over huge distances from the Banyan tree itself.

Something analogous is true of the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein. In contemporary philosophy, it is thought by some best to get out from under Wittgenstein, to plant new ideas elsewhere and see what grows. But similarly, too, Wittgenstein's philosophy matters because of what has been its unseen (because foundational) and unremarked (because gradual) nurturing of new species of thought which gain purchase and grow only because the soil, across a wide area, has been cleared and enriched. In new areas as diverse as the understanding of autism, artificial intelligence, primatology, as well as more traditional topics of mind and meaning, ethics and mathematics, Wittgenstein's thought continue to inspire the radical new thinking that we so urgently need.

It is this theme, the vitality of Wittgenstein ideas in the Twenty First Century, which forms the theme of our upcoming conference. We hope you will join us to uncover and discuss together Wittgenstein's "greatness in the further soil".
10th Anniversary BWS Annual Conference: Wittgenstein in the 21st Century

University of Hertfordshire, 30-31 July 2017

The British Wittgenstein Society 10th Anniversary conference is imminent. Please register now! It will be a celebration of Wittgenstein's contribution across disciplines. Here is the program, followed by registration details:

**Sunday 30 July**

9.00-9:30  Registration

9.30-9:45  Welcome from Danièle Moyal-Sharrock, President of the BWS

9:45-11.00  **Daniel D. Hutto** (Wollongong, Australia) *'Naturalism in the Goldilocks Zone: Wittgenstein's Delicate Balancing Act'*
11.20-12.45  Peter Hobson (UCL) 'On Wittgenstein, development, and interpersonal understanding: the telling case of autism'

14:00-15.15  Louise Barrett (Lethbridge, Canada) 'Picturing primates, and looking at monkeys: why Wittgenstein should have more impact on primatology'

15:30-16.45  Michel Bitbol (CNRS, Paris) 'Mathematical demonstration and experimental activity: a Wittgensteinian philosophy of physics'

16.45-18:00  Richard Harper (Lancaster) in conversation with Constantine Sandis on Wittgenstein and Information Communication Technology

19:30  Conference dinner, Beales Restaurant

Monday 31 July

9:15-10:45  Peter Hacker (Oxford) 'The achievement and legacy of the private language arguments'

11:00-12:15  Edward Harcourt (Oxford) 'Wittgenstein's Ethics, Wittgensteinian Ethics, and Ethics after Wittgenstein'

13:30-14:45  Sandra Laugier (Sorbonne, Paris) 'Wittgenstein and the Social: language, community, and dissent'

15:00-16:15  Paul Standish (UCL) 'Wittgenstein’s impact on the philosophy of education'

16:15-17:30  Ray Monk (Southampton) will introduce and moderate a discussion with all conference participants on 'What is Wittgenstein's place in 21st century thought?'

The conference will take place at Beales Hotel, Hatfield on 30-31 July, 2017.

Full conference registration: includes refreshments and a 2-course lunch on both days: £95 / student: £65

Conference Package: includes full conference registration; 30 July bed/breakfast at Beales Hotel 4* (single occupancy); conference dinner (3-course; coffee/tea; wine): £219 / student £190

Other options are available on the registration website

How to get there:

The venue (Beales Hotel) is easily accessible by train (approx. every half hour) from Kings Cross to Hatfield (a 22-minute journey). Check here for times. Once at Hatfield station, either take one of several buses to 'The Galleria' shopping centre, and walk 3 minutes to the Beales Hotel; or take a taxi from Hatfield station (approx. £7).

http://www.herts.ac.uk/contact-us/where-to-find-us

http://www.bealeshotels.co.uk/hatfield/contact-us/location/

Read more.
In the spring of 1923, Leopoldine Eichberger was practicing her orthography and grammar lessons under the watchful eye and strict guidance of Ludwig Wittgenstein, elementary school teacher. She was one of many elementary school pupils that Wittgenstein taught between 1920 and 1926, in the small villages of lower Austria. During that particular school year, he led his class in a project to make their own dictionaries: they collected words they were having trouble with, they hand-dyed the stiff paper used for the covers, and they bound everything together with red ribbon.
This period of Wittgenstein's life usually gets passed over as a curiosity or a surprising point of trivia. However, his training and occupation during these six years – not to mention the remaining artifacts of his efforts – shed new light on and heighten the significance of the prevalent teaching and learning references woven into his later philosophy. Instead of a break from his prior philosophical interests and method, Wittgenstein's years as a teacher reveal his continued interest in the philosophy of language and its practical, everyday manifestations.

In 1926, as a culmination of the dictionary project he had his students complete, Wittgenstein published the Wörterbuch für Volksschulen. Known as the second of only two works published in Wittgenstein's lifetime, it is the most important touchstone that links these two periods of his life and work.

Published versions of the dictionary do exist but are rare but, so to understand Wittgenstein's method at the time of its composition and its relation to his later philosophical work, more research on its provenance was warranted. Luckily, a few artifacts, manuscripts, and correspondences related to the Dictionary have survived. Besides the so-called preface to the Dictionary, a set of publisher’s proof pages with copious marginalia is the most promising prospect for insight into the process by which the Dictionary took shape. It was this document, held in a private collection, which I tracked down and have since examined.

This set of proof pages is composed of 10 sheets interlaid booklet-style, with the word entries arranged in three columns. The editorial marks that fill the margins are rendered in 3 different colors and at times overlap one another. The first page of each section bears the stamp of Adolf Holzhausen, head editor of the Dictionary's publisher (Hölder-Pichler-Tempsky), and a well-known Viennese patron of academic research.

Although there is some question whether or which of the marks are in Wittgenstein's own hand, the contents of the dictionary and the corrections yield a fascinating view of the words that Wittgenstein deemed central to the forms of life and language-games in which his students were immersed. Many entries such as Alm (mountain pasture) and Senner (alpine shepherd) relate directly to the geography, and locale in which Wittgenstein taught. Other common categories of words have to do with religion (Apostel, Philister) or may have formed the basis of Wittgenstein's other lessons for the school children, including about Arabic numerals (arabische Ziffern) and rules (Regel).

Noteworthy is also Wittgenstein's inclusion of words and descriptions that refer to the children's dialect or colloquial usage. Some word entries make note of "Mundart" or how a particular word would be used in the specific region of Austria in which he taught. The care with which he selected and constructed this dictionary is evident, and is also in line with what is known of his punctilious approach to his philosophical endeavors before and after his career as a teacher.

The Dictionary is thus a link from Wittgenstein's years as an elementary school teacher to works such as the Brown Book and the Philosophical Investigations. The connection goes beyond the frequent references to teaching that can be found in these later works: the influence of his previous career is also palpable in his focus on the processes by which someone – usually a child – learns a word or language-game anew. In this process, the 'agreements in judgment' necessary for meaningful language use are continuously renegotiated. Questions about the basis on which to ground language (if that is possible at all), in turn, get to the heart of Wittgenstein's method and
insights in the years after his return to Cambridge in 1929.

Read more.

Désirée Weber received her PhD from Northwestern University, completed under the supervision of James Farr and John G. Gunnell, in 2016. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Political Theory at the College of Wooster in Ohio.

Report on Seventeenth British Wittgenstein Society Lecture

Report on Hanne Appleqvist's “Rule-Following and Reflective Judgement” by Fionn O’Donovan

The lecture began with a consideration of Wittgenstein’s paradox about rule-following. For Wittgenstein, Appleqvist suggested, it is not sufficient for an action to (properly speaking) accord with a rule for it to "fit" with the rule. That might happen as a result of sheer luck. To count as understanding, the agent’s behaviour and the rule must be internally related: for instance, the agent will be able to appeal to the rule in explaining their behaviour. There is, however, an apparent problem here: does the agent not need to be able to interpret the appealed-to rule to count as understanding that? And would the further rule appealed to in the second-order interpretation not also need further interpretation? How then do we avoid an infinite regress?

Appleqvist highlighted Wittgenstein’s claim, in response, that “there is a way of grasping a rule which is not an interpretation” (Philosophical Investigations, 201). How is it that we grasp a rule
without interpreting it? She answered these questions via a detour to Kant’s First Critique, suggesting that there Kant also recognises the insufficiency of mere appeals to rules in judgment. He claims that what we need to be able to apply a general conceptual rule to a particular case is a "power of judgment", which is in Kant's sense an intuitive (as opposed to a conceptual) power. Crucially, this power shows itself not in an agent articulating or formulating some rule, but in action. Appelqvist suggested that, when utilising the power of judgment, agents exhibit a rule which cannot be conceptually formulated. Kant's position, for Appelqvist, is a bipartite analysis of what is involved with understanding: on one side, we have the formulated conceptual rules which the agent can appeal to, and on the other the non-conceptual rules grasped by the power of judgment, exhibited in action.

Appelqvist argued these Kantian ingredients are essential to Wittgenstein’s own solution to the problem about rule-following. Her idea is that Kant's “power of judgment” is the way of grasping a rule that is not an interpretation Wittgenstein mentions. It is this idea that Wittgenstein purportedly uses to stop the regress of interpretations. She supported this claim by examining Wittgenstein’s remarks on the understanding of a musical tune.

In *Philosophical Investigations* 184, Wittgenstein considers the case of suddenly recalling how to play a musical tune. The suggestion is that the criteria for the tune really being “there” in one’s mind is that one can then actually play it, either in one’s head or aloud. However certain we may feel that we know it, or however competently we can explain the relevant rules, it may turn out that we are after all unable to complete the tune upon attempt. In such cases, while the conceptual, rule-based part of understanding is present, the part based on the power of judgment is lacking. Thus, Appelqvist argued, for Wittgenstein, too, both these parts are necessary for understanding.

Appelqvist explored many of Wittgenstein’s other examples and remarks pertaining to the relationship between music, rules and understanding to support this reading. She also explored the relationship between the views of Kant and Wittgenstein on this subject and their views on aesthetics. One question raised in the discussion concerned whether, when we apply the power of judgment, we do so qua individuals or qua members of a common linguistic community with common standards. Appelqvist replied that the conceptual rule-based component of her account implies that there will always be a part of aesthetic judgment that involves reference to communal standards, but that the more subjective, power-of-judgment side leaves room for freedom to make one’s own judgment.

Fionn O'Donovan

BWS Member and PhD Philosophy Student, University of Southampton

See more BWS Lecture Series videos

Read more.
Turing and Wittgenstein on Logic and Mathematics

PROFESSOR RAY MONK

November 6th, 2017
@ 6:15 pm - 8:00 pm
The Bloomsbury Institute, 50 Bedford Square
London WC1B 3DP

To ensure your place at this lecture, you must register at events@britishwittgensteinsociety.org.
The BWS cannot guarantee entry for non-registered arrivals.

About the Speaker

Ray Monk FRSL is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Southampton, where he has taught since 1992.

He won the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize and the 1991 Duff Cooper Prize for his biography of Wittgenstein, Ludwig Wittgenstein: The Duty of Genius. His interests lie in the philosophy of mathematics, the history of analytic philosophy, and philosophical aspects of biographical writing. His biography of Robert Oppenheimer was published in 2012.

In 2015 he was awarded a Fellowship by the Royal Society of Literature

Available after the event.

See more BWS Lecture Series videos
Read more.
Nineteenth British Wittgenstein Society Lecture

The Autistic Mind: a Wittgensteinian Account
Robert Chapman

14 May, 2018
@ 6:15 pm - 8:00 pm
The Bloomsbury Institute, 50 Bedford Square
London WC1B 3DP

The BWS cannot guarantee entry for non-registered arrivals.

About the Speaker

Robert Chapman is currently writing a PhD at the University of Essex whilst teaching part-time at King’s College London. He primarily works on the philosophy and ethics of autism and neurodiversity, and is working on developing a notion of autistic thriving in his thesis. Beyond the notion of autistic thriving, he draws on feminist philosophy, critical theory, and the phenomenological tradition in order to develop new methods for framing neurodiversity as well to work towards therapeutically dismantling the notion of mental disorder. Beyond his work on neurodiversity, he is also interested in Wittgenstein, Nietzsche, emancipatory politics, and any combination of the above. He mostly teaches ethics but has also taught courses on Wittgenstein, the philosophy of gender, and political thought.

See more BWS Lecture Series videos
Read more.

Welsh Philosophical Society 53rd Session - Report

Welsh Philosophical Society 53rd Session - Report
Hall, Friday 28th – Sunday 30th April 2017
by Ian Ground
To the stunning house and grounds of Gregynog Hall for the 53rd session of the Welsh Philosophical Society. Organised with quiet efficiency by David Cockburn, this conference grew in focus over the weekend as a theme spontaneously emerged from the invited talks and Q & A’s. The focus and high quality of discussions were much assisted by courteous but firm chairing and adoption of the hand/finger rules.

Opening the conference and having just successfully defended his doctoral thesis, Neil O'Hara gave an account of his central claim – that the response to others as human agents was a matter, not of inference or ratiocination but of "primary recognition". A lively discussion saw Dr O'Hara offer a spirited defence against putative counter-examples and charges that his was still too cognitivist an account.

This question of how to conceive of our relations with each other – a matter of knowledge or acknowledgement – was the theme of Friday evening's session. A regular and valuable feature of this gathering has been a session organised around a reading of a classic text. This year, Constantine Sandis led a discussion of Cavell's *Must We Mean What We Say*, and the group worked hard to tease out Cavell's famously nuanced account of the relation between "secondary meaning" in language and interpersonal relations.

There is, of course, a deep and much-discussed connection – (for example in the anthology *Seeing Wittgenstein Anew* - between Wittgenstein's account of secondary meaning and aspect seeing. So – with the theme of interpersonal meaning now coming to the fore - the conference segued rather elegantly into the BWS Annual Lecture by Katherine Morris. Her account of aspect seeing was immensely thoughtful and sensitive demonstrating the wisdom in Wittgenstein's remark that philosophy is best done slowly.

After delightful walks in the Gregynog grounds on Saturday afternoon, we returned to Chon Tejedor's account of anti-scientism in the Tractatus, offering a closely argued thesis that Wittgenstein's anti-scientism is an attempt to rescue science from self-subversion.

The last session saw a return to the prevailing theme of interpersonal meaning as Roger Teichmann ended the conference with an elegant and witty account of psychological ascriptions. There was perhaps a general feeling that Teichmann's discussion crystallised different approaches to the application of Wittgenstein's thought and discussions continued at length after the paper and indeed- for some of us - much of the train journey home.

This was a meeting of many pleasures: the presence of many postgraduates and early career philosophers, working on an eclectic range of topics from Welsh nationalism to digital shopping; the contributions of colleagues from across Europe. But perhaps the greatest pleasure of the weekend - rewarding, restorative and much remarked upon by all- was the intensely collegial ethos of the event. Free from grandstanding and feuding over irreconcilable presuppositions, it felt like a genuinely collective endeavour where there was precisely enough agreement to make progress possible and precisely enough disagreement to make that progress valuable. It was in this respect, entirely fitting that interpersonal relations – and how to nurture them – emerged so spontaneously as the theme of the conference. The BWS offers its congratulations to the WPS and remains a proud sponsor of the event. We look forward to returning the gardens of Gregynog on May 8th and 9th, 2018.

Read more.
New funding for Wittgenstein’s house in Skjolden

**Press release:**

New funding for Wittgenstein’s house in Skjolden

As one of the major sponsors, Luster Sparebank has given a grant of NOK 1 million to the project. This is in addition to NOK 1 million which has been funded by the county of Sogn og Fjordane, in which Wittgenstein’s house is located. There is still a long way for full funding, but with positive response from other key sponsors who will be contacted during the spring, the restoration of Wittgenstein’s house in its original surroundings can already commence within 2017.

The renowned Austrian philosopher and engineer Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951) is not very well known in Norway. However, every year people from around the world come to visit the site where he built the house in 1913, where he sought solitude to work without distractions. Here, Wittgenstein conducted works that delivered important contributions, not just to language and philosophy of mind, but also to mathematics and studies in aerodynamics.

Today, the house is located near the centre of Skjolden and is being used as a holiday house. The relocation and restoration of the house to its original architectural form, will create a historic and cultural heritage site in Sogn og Fjordane, and become an international tourist attraction.

Upon completion, the Foundation intends to inaugurate the house with its key stakeholders and friends representing Norwegian and international universities with a launch event in June 2019.

The project has received significant interest from across the world. A press delegation from Austria will visit the house in Skjolden in May 2017. Wittgenstein studied at the universities of Berlin, Manchester and Cambridge, which are all engaged in the project and agreed to collaborate to support the restoration of the house.

www.wittgenstein-foundation.com
The Wittgenstein Foundation in Skjolden, March 9th 2017

Read more.

http://sms.cam.ac.uk/media/2360566
Jointly organised by the Von Hügel Institute for critical catholic inquiry (VHI) and the Woolf Institute, this event was part of the VHI 2016-17 series of lectures and events on Dynamics of Dis/Agreement. For more details visit [http://www.vhi.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/events](http://www.vhi.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/events)

Some Forthcoming Events

Hinge Epistemology Conference

University of California, Irvine

SPEAKERS:
Yuval Avnur
Sven Bernecker
Annalisa Coliva
Peter Graham
Penelope Maddy
Daniele Moyal-Sharrock
Duncan Pritchard
Karl Schafer
Genia Schönbaumsfeld
David W. Smith
Ernest Sosa
Michael Williams
Aaron Zimmerman

Wittgenstein in different philosophical and cultural traditions

A one-day workshop "Wittgenstein in different philosophical and cultural traditions" at the University of Amsterdam on 15 July 2017. Some of the topics that will be discussed at the

Speakers:
- Charles Travis (Porto)
- Hiroshi Ohtani (Musashino University)
- Yi Jiang (Beijing Normal University)
- Martin Stokhof and Jaap var der Does (University of Amsterdam)
- Mark Rowe (University of East Anglia)
- Dimitris Gakis (KU Leuven)
- Tamara Dobler (UvA)

Location: Belle van Zuylenzaal, Universiteitsbibliotheek, Singel 425

Programme: TBA

There is no charge to attend this event but places are limited so if you are interested please register in advance by emailing: T.Dobler@uva.nl

Read more.

Please visit our website for a full events listing

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Nordic Wittgenstein Review

A new issue of Nordic Wittgenstein Review was published. It's Open Access. See below.

NWR is an international full Open Access journal, published by the Nordic Wittgenstein Society http://nordicwittgensteinsociety.org since 2012. It applies a double-blind peer review to papers submitted to the article section, and an additional Open Review to accepted papers.

Best wishes for the holidays!

The editors (2017-2018)
Gisela Bengtsson (Uppsala University)
Tove Österman (Uppsala University)
Yrsa Neuman, editor-in-chief (Åbo Akademi University) until yesterday, henceforth Simo Säätelä (University of Bergen)

PS. CFP! Next submission deadline: August 31 (& continuous). Submission guidelines: http://www.nordicwittgensteinreview.com/about/submissions
INVITED PAPER
"Not a Something"
Roger Teichmann 9-30
http://www.nordicwittgensteinreview.com/article/view/3446/4143

ARTICLES
A Passion for Life: Love and Meaning
Camilla Kronqvist 31-51
http://www.nordicwittgensteinreview.com/article/view/3424/4140

Excursus on Wittgenstein's Rule-Following Considerations
Elek Lane 53-83
http://www.nordicwittgensteinreview.com/article/view/3423/4141

Numbers in Elementary Propositions
Anderson Luis Nakano 85-103
http://www.nordicwittgensteinreview.com/article/view/3438/4139

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Logbook of Editing Wittgenstein's "Philosophische Bemerkungen"
Christian Erbacher, Julia Jung & Anne Seibel 105-147
http://www.nordicwittgensteinreview.com/article/view/3442/4144

BOOK REVIEWS
Review of Ian Dearden: "Do Philosophers Talk Nonsense?"
Antony Fredriksson 149-151
http://www.nordicwittgensteinreview.com/article/view/3445/4146

Review of Rebecca Schuman: "Kafka and Wittgenstein"
Hugo Strandberg 153-156
http://www.nordicwittgensteinreview.com/article/view/3447/4145

REPLIES --- New section
Matters of Fact and Relations of Ideas
Nuno Venturinha 157-163
http://www.nordicwittgensteinreview.com/article/view/3449/4147

NWR is on Facebook. https://www.facebook.com/NordicWittgensteinReview/

Nordic Wittgenstein Review publishes original contributions on all aspects of Wittgenstein's thought and work - exegetical studies as well as papers drawing on Wittgensteinian themes and ideas in discussions of contemporary philosophical problems.

The journal is interdisciplinary in character, and publishes contributions in the subject areas of philosophy and other human and social studies including philology, linguistics, cognitive science, and others. Sections include invited paper, interview, peer-reviewed articles, from the archives (in which seminal works are re-published or where previously unpublished archive materials are presented), as well as a book reviews.
The journal is published by the Nordic Wittgenstein Society (NWS). It is Open Access, applies a double-blind peer review process to submitted article section papers, and an additional Open Review of accepted submitted articles. No article publishing charge. Copyright with the author, published with a Creative Commons CC-BY licence.

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Recent Books


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Our website is at www.britishwittgensteinsociety.org

The BWS Facebook Page, for informal discussion of Wittgenstein related issues and news has more than 2400 members.

Please follow the BWS on Twitter @BrittWittSoc.

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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