

From: British Wittgenstein Society [bws@herts.ac.uk]

Subject: Newsletter no.4

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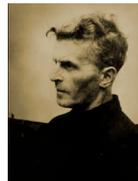
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BWS Newsletter Issue no 4

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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to members of the BWS, on a regular basis, in order to draw attention to updates on the website, or to share as yet unpublished news.

Nota Bene

Summary of 'Rorty's Wittgenstein' – the British Wittgenstein Society's Second Lecture given by Paul Horwich on 5 May 2009



Paul Horwich's talk was a critical appraisal of a paper ('Wittgenstein, Theory, and Therapy') that Richard Rorty completed shortly before his death. In that paper, Rorty criticized Wittgenstein's identification of philosophical problems with diseases of thought calling for a form of therapy, and recommended instead a form of 'pragmatic Wittgensteinianism' that privileges the view of languages as instrumentally valuable social practices, and takes this to be an important theoretical discovery.

Horwich's presentation (i) spelled out the differences between these two outlooks; (ii) summarised Rorty's reasons for opposing the therapeutic one and favoring the pragmatic one; (iii) sketched a stronger version of Wittgensteinian therapism than the version criticized by Rorty; (iv) bolstered the relative appeal of this better version by developing a combination of considerations supporting it and objections to the pragmatist alternative; and (v) briefly took up the secondary issue of which of the competing perspectives corresponds more closely to Wittgenstein's own opinions, arguing that, on this score too, therapism comes out on top.

NB Horwich's paper, together with the paper of Rorty's to which it responds, will be published together in *Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations: A Critical Guide*, edited by Arif Ahmed, Cambridge University Press, 2009 (forthcoming).

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Second BWS annual conference

The BWS annual conference is fast approaching -- 13-14 June. As you know, this year's topic is 'Wittgenstein and Naturalism', and the line-up is pretty impressive ...

Lynne Rudder Baker (UMass Amherst)
William Child (Oxford)
Owen Flanagan (Duke)
Peter Hacker (Oxford)
Daniel D. Hutto (Hertfordshire)
Anthony Kenny (Oxford)
David Papineau (King's College London)
Jesse Prinz (CUNY)
John Searle (UC Berkeley)
Meredith Williams (John Hopkins)

Registration for the conference has been steadily flowing in, so don't delay. And be sure to book before 25 May if you want to avoid a late registration fee. You can email your registration forms if you are paying by credit card and type in, rather than sign, your name on the signature line. The [provisional programme](#), as well as the downloadable [Conference Registration Form](#) are now online.

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The Welsh Philosophical Society

The BWS is now the proud sponsor of an Annual Wittgenstein Lecture at the Welsh Philosophical Society's meetings -- the inaugural lecture to be delivered by Dr Hugh Knott (Swansea): 'Does Certainty Go All The Way Down?'

Our very own Britt Harrison (current recipient of the BWS bursary) will also be giving a paper, entitled: 'A Wittgensteinian Look at Knowing-How and Knowing-That'.



This year's meeting of the Welsh Philosophical Society will be held on 22-24 May, 2009 at Gregynog Hall, University of Wales, Newtown. The full [Programme](#) is online.

Editor's corner

There are currently six books available for review. Go to the [Book Reviews](#) page to see the titles. This BookNOTES page is becoming a home for some excellent book reviews. Many are more than reviews, they are 'papers' in their own right. We're interested in short reviews as well as in-depth discussion, and welcome all who would like to participate.

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The lecture series

The forthcoming lecture programme

Autumn Lecture 2009: Professor Rom Harré

Prof. Harré was for many years the University Lecturer in Philosophy of Science at Oxford and Fellow of Linacre College. His research has covered many issues in philosophy, perhaps most notably the use of models and other kinds of non-formal reasoning in the sciences

*Spring Lecture 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

We've created an archive for members where all past [newsletters](#) are stored. It is for members only so there is no link from the main site. The link will be published in all the newsletters.



The Publications pages have been recently reordered so that they are now in date order. Do let us know of any titles to watch out for. Feel free to promote your own book.

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, lectures etc. anywhere in the world.

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

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