

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

**Subject:** Newsletter no.6

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BWS Newsletter Issue no 6

**Festive greetings to  
all our members**

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## Nota Bene

Summary by John Preston of 'Are there Moral Hinges?' – the Third Lecture of the Ludwig Wittgenstein Lecture Series -- given by Professor Rom Harré on 2 November 2009



In *On Certainty*, Wittgenstein uses examples of what he calls 'hinges' for working through epistemological issues that arise in resolving the grammatical errors G. E. Moore perpetrated in his uses of 'know', 'believe', 'certain', etc. Nearly all his examples are concerned with life in the material world of time, space and things. Wittgenstein's later writings certainly display an overall and pervasive atmosphere of normativity, but are any of the implicit norms of hinge-practices moral?

'Hinges', like 'concepts', do not appear *in propria persona* anywhere but are *realised in practices*, and *expressed in doppelganger propositions*. This scheme fits into a progression in Wittgenstein's thought of means for ensuring the orderliness of discourses: from logic, through grammar, to hinges.

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to members of the BWS, on a regular basis, in order to draw attention to updates on the website, or to share as yet unpublished news.

Some hinge-practices are regulative, but some are constitutive of forms of life – and doppelganger hinge-propositions as expressions of norms fall into parallel types. *Moral* hinges are realised in hinge-practices that are moral, and are expressed in hinge-propositions that are empirical. *Moral practices* are person preserving, person enhancing, and permit autonomous choice of actions. Whether a hinge-practice is moral is shown by how that practice is contested.

What should we make of Hume's Principle that an 'ought' cannot be deduced from an 'is' if the practice the axiological character of which we are considering has an empirical proposition as a doppelganger? Does not that make the root hinge a misbegotten being

that is *both* normative and factual? Or perhaps the seemingly empirical doppelganger is covertly evaluative after all? However, the relation between hinge-practice and hinge-proposition is not deductive. If the practice is normative and the proposition is contingent and they are derived from a common hinge then Hume's Principle is outflanked.

Professor Harré's project is to explore the possibility that certain *empirical* hypotheses are the propositional doppelgangers of *moral* practices. His examples serve to test the hypothesis that there are hinges that escape Hume's critical aphorism.

The final draft of the lecture will be posted on the website as soon as available.

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## Publishers' Offers

### Springer Netherlands

The Proceedings of the BWS Inaugural conference on 'The Third Wittgenstein' are now published.

*Philosophia* Vol 37 No 4 / December 2009

'The Third Wittgenstein'

Proceedings of the BWS First Conference edited by Danièle Moyal-Sharrock.

Philosophia is offering BWS Members free access for 'several months'. Visit <http://www.springerlink.com/content/0048-3893>. Remember free access is for a limited period only. Unfortunately two of the speakers did not provide papers for the Proceedings.

### Ashgate

The Ashgate reduction to members ended at the end of October, but the publishers are running an end-of-year philosophy sale. Details of the offer can be found at <http://www.ashgate.com/PhilosophySale>

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## BWS Conferences

### Second BWS Conference

A report of the conference in June 2009 at the University of Hertfordshire can be downloaded on [this link](#).

### Third BWS Conference

The Third BWS Conference will be hosted by the University of Southampton, on 28-29 June 2010. The theme is 'Wittgenstein and Aesthetics'. Here is the list of confirmed speakers so far

#### *Principal organisers*

Ray Monk and Genia Schönbaumsfeld

#### *Speakers*

[Noël Carroll](#) (CUNY)

[Stephen Davies](#) (University of Auckland)

[Richard Eldridge](#) (Swarthmore College)

Garry Hagberg (UEA)

[Jerold Levinson](#) (University of Maryland)

[Alex Neill](#) (Southampton)

For updates, please visit the conference website at the [University of Southampton](#) or the Conference page on our own BWS website.

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## The lecture series

We now have a title for the next lecture, and please note that the date has changed. Put it into your new diaries.

**Spring Lecture 20 May 2010: Professor Dale Jacquette**  
Title: Wittgenstein's Tractatus as Mystic Revelation

Professor Jacquette teaches 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, so do check back to the website for details.



## The BWS website

### Updates

The [Publications](#) page ends the first decade of the millennium with the 98th published book about Wittgenstein or his philosophy to be posted on the website. If you know of any publications that have fallen through the net, please contact [j.m.preston@reading.ac.uk](mailto:j.m.preston@reading.ac.uk) - perhaps we can round it up to 100. We do need a picture of the jacket, though.



Members who have not been able to watch the *Logic Lane* videos may be pleased to note that two of them are now available for download from Professor Chanan's webspace at the repository at Roehampton University. Others will be available during 2010. Check on our [Videolinks page](#).

We welcome new reviewers contributing to the archive of comment on recent books on Wittgenstein. Contact [ca356@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ca356@cam.ac.uk) if you would like to write a short review or a longer critical appraisal. If you would like to review a book that is not listed, we will try and get it for you.

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

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## Happy Christmas from the web editor

Jane Dorner wishes members of the BWS a thoughtful Christmas with her version of the Liar's Paradox, Popper's Black Swan and Jourdain's Paradox. Hover your mouse over the figure to see the other side of the card. Your interpretation of it will depend on what your own view of the existence of Father Christmas is, and therefore whether the three statements can co-exist. (You may have to allow blocked content to get the animation to work.)



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## 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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