

CPNSS Fixtures List

Summer Term 2013

ALL-LONDON HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE MEETINGS

Choice Group

[Contact: Katie Steele on tel: 020 7955 7334, email: k.steele@lse.ac.uk ;
www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CPNSS/projects/ChoiceGroup]

Popper

[Contact: Tom Hinrichsen/ Worrall on tel: 020 7955 7335, email: j.worrall@lse.ac.uk]

Sigma Club

[Contact: Roman Frigg on tel: 020 7955 7182, email: r.p.frigg@lse.ac.uk;
www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CPNSS/projects/SigmaClub]

BSPS

[Contact: Roman Frigg on tel: 020 7955 7182, email: r.p.frigg@lse.ac.uk]

PH500 Formal Methods in Social Sciences*

[Contact: Tom Chivers on tel: 020 7955 7340, email: t.r.chivers@lse.ac.uk]

PH551 Research Methods in the Philosophy of the Natural Sciences*

[Contact: Roman Frigg on tel: 020 7955 7182, email: r.p.frigg@lse.ac.uk]

PH555 Measurement of Well-Being*

[Contact: Tom Chivers on tel: 020 7955 7340, email: t.r.chivers@lse.ac.uk]

Unless otherwise noted, all seminars and events are held in LAK 2.06 and are open to the public. For updated information online www.lse.ac.uk/cpnss

* These are either research or taught seminars but they might also be open to interested people; please contact the seminar leader. Those attending are expected to read the relevant material.

Summer Term - Week 1: Mon 29/04/2013 – Fri 03/05/2013

Monday 29th April, 5:15pm - 6:45pm

SIGMA Club: Jeffrey Ketland (Oxford)

Title: “A Note on Leibniz Equivalence”

Tuesday 30th April, 5:30pm - 7pm

Talk

Speaker: Matt Parker, LSE

Title: *Infinitesimal Probabilities and Regularity*

Abstract: *In standard probability theory, probability zero is not the same as impossibility. If an experiment has infinitely many possible outcomes, all equally likely, then all the outcomes must have probability zero, but at least one of them must occur nonetheless. Many have suggested that this should not be so—that probabilities (ontic or epistemic, depending on the author) should be regular: Only impossible events should have probability zero and only necessary or certain events should have probability one. This can be arranged if we allow infinitesimal probabilities, but it turns out that infinitesimals do not solve all of the problems. I will show that regular probabilities cannot be translation-invariant, even for bounded and disjoint events. Hence, for various events confined to finite space and time (e.g., dart throws and vacuum fluctuations), regular chances cannot be determined by space-time invariant physical laws, and regular credences cannot satisfy seemingly reasonable symmetry principles. Moreover, these examples are immune to the main objections against Timothy Williamson’s infinite coin flip examples.*

Wednesday 1st May, 2pm - 4pm

PH555: Measurement of Well-Being with Bovens, Khoury, McTernan and Schokkaert

Wednesday 1st May, 5:30pm - 7pm

CHOICE GROUP:

Speaker: Elias Tsakas (Maastricht University, Economics)

Title: *Pairwise epistemic conditions for Nash equilibrium*

Abstract: *We provide an epistemic foundation for Nash equilibrium in terms of pairwise epistemic conditions locally imposed on only some pairs of players. Our main result considerably weakens not only the standard sufficient conditions by Aumann and Brandenburger (1995), but also the subsequent generalization by Barelli (2009). Surprisingly, our conditions do not require nor imply mutual belief in rationality. (Joint work with Chrisitan Bach)*

Summer term - Week 2: Mon 06/05/2013 – Fri 10/05/2013

Tuesday 7th May, 10am – 12pm

PH500: Formal Methods in Social Science

Speakers: Katie Steele & Luc Bovens

Tuesday 7th May, 2pm

POPPER SEMINAR

Speaker: Professor Wolfgang Spohn (Konstanz)

Title: *Deterministic Laws are not Falsifiable – as a de Finettian Account of Them Reveals*

Wednesday 8th May

No CHOICE GROUP due to Lakatos Award week

Thursday 9th May, 2pm – 4pm

PH500: Meta-ethics meets decision theory

Summer term - Week 3: Mon 13/05/2013 – Fri 17/05/2013

Monday 13th May, 5:15pm - 6:45pm

PH551: Research Methods in the Philosophy of the Natural Sciences

Speaker: Barrie Tonkinson

Title: *Relativity Theory in the 21st Century – Formalism & Interpretation*

Tuesday 14th May, 5:15pm – 6:45pm

SIGMA special

Speakers: Orly Shenker and Meir Hemmo

Tuesday 14th May, 2pm

POPPER

Speaker: Professor Kit Wellman (Washington University in St Louis)

Title: *Procedural Rights*

Wednesday 15th May, 2pm – 4pm

PH555: Measurement of Well – Being with Bovens, Khoury, McTernan and Schokkaert

Wednesday 15th May, 5:30pm – 7pm

CHOICE GROUP

Speaker: Erik Schokkaert (K U Leuven, Economics)

Title: *Measuring Wellbeing and Inequality*

Summer term - Week 4: Mon 20/05/2013 – Fri 24/05/2013

Monday 20th May, 5:15pm - 6:45pm

SIGMA

Speaker: Erica Thompson

Tuesday 21st May, 10am-12pm

PH500: Formal Methods in Social Sciences

Speakers: Katie Steele & Luc Bovens

Tuesday 21st May, 2pm

POPPER

Speaker: Dr Foad Dizadji-Bahmani (California State University LA)

Title: *A New Model of Intertheoretic Reduction*

Wednesday 22nd May, 5:30pm – 7pm

CHOICE GROUP

Speaker: Bertil Tungodden (Department of Economics, Norwegian School of Economics)

Title: *tba*

Thursday 23rd May, 2pm – 4pm

PH500: Meta-ethics meets decision theory

Thursday 23rd May, 6:30pm – 8pm

Dan Dennett – Lecture and Book Launch

Speaker: Dan Dennett, Chair: Christian List

Title: *Intuition Pumps and Other Tools for Thinking*

Abstract: *In this lecture, one of the world's most original thinkers will show how he designs, uses, and dismantles the thinking tools that have illuminated his theories of meaning, mind, and evolution. The big difference between human minds and the minds of other animals is our equipping ourselves with literally hundreds of thinking tools – cultural software that we install in our brains much the way we download Java applets to our laptops and smart phones. Some of these tools are as simple as labels or metaphors, and others are sophisticated intuition pumps – persuasion machines that can delude us if we're not careful.*

Room: Sheikh Zayed Theatre, New Academic Building

Summer term - Week 5: Mon 27/05/2013 – Fri 31/05/2013

Wednesday 29th May, 5:30pm – 7pm

CHOICE GROUP

Speaker: Nick Baigent (Graz and LSE)

Title: *Total Violence: Concept and Measurement*

Summer term - Week 6: Mon 03/06/2013 – Fri 07/06/2013

Monday 3rd June, 2pm – 6pm

NANCY CARTWRIGHT'S FAREWELL CONFERENCE

Tuesday 4TH June, 10am 12pm

PH500: Formal Methods in Social Sciences

Speakers: Katie Steele & Luc Bovens

Wednesday 5th June, 5:30pm – 7pm

CHOICE GROUP

Tba

Thursday 6th June, 2pm – 4pm

PH500: Meta-ethics meets decision theory

Summer term - Week 7: Mon10/06/2013 – Fri 14/06/2013

Monday 10th June, 9am – 3pm

Workshop

Title: *Principles of Indifference and Scoring Rules*

Speakers/ Schedule:

10am - 11am: Juergen Landes & Jon Williamson *'Objective Bayesianism and the Maximum Entropy Principle'*

11am – 12pm: Jason Konek *'An Anti-Luck Solution to the Problem of the Priors'*

12pm - 1pm: Lunch

1pm - 2pm: Richard Pettigrew *'Accuracy, Risk, and the Principle of Indifference'*

2pm - 2.45pm: General discussion

Monday 10th June, 4:30pm – 6pm

Lecture (organised by the Order Project)

Speaker: Avishai Margalit

Title: *Proportionality and Total War*

Abstract: *This lecture will discuss the 'just war theory': Just conduct in a war and the requirement of proportionality between the casualties of 'our' combatants and the casualties of 'their' civilians*

Room: OLD 3.21 (Robinson Suite)

Booking: Attendance by Registration, drinks reception after, please notify Rebecca Robinson R.Robinson1@lse.ac.uk

Monday 10th June, 5:15pm – 6:45pm

BSPS

Speaker: Pat Bateson (Cambridge)

Title: *Plasticity, Robustness, Development and Evolution*

Note: *No tea in the common room due to refurbishment works*

Thursday 13th June, 1:30pm – 5:30pm;

Friday 14th June, 9am – 6pm;

Saturday 15th June, 9am – 1pm

Workshop (organised by Christian List and Kai Spiekermann)

Speaker: Tim Bayne, Jan Broersen, Pim Haselager, Alex leviringhaus, Al Mele, Thomas Muller, Hanna Pickard, Wlodek Rabinowicz, Saul Smilansky

Title: *New Perspectives on Free Will and Responsibility: From Metaphysics to Politics*

Booking: Attendance by registration gov.enquiries@lse.ac.uk (subject line "Free Will")

Summer term - Week 8: Mon 17/06/2013 – Fri 21/06/2013

Tuesday 18th June, 10am – 12pm

PH500: Formal Methods in Social Sciences

Speakers: Katie Steele & Luc Bovens

Wednesday 19th June, 5:30pm – 7pm

CHOICE GROUP

Speaker: Harold Nax (CNRS Paris, Economics)

Title: *Learning in a Black Box*

Abstract: *Many interactive environments can be represented as games, but they are so large and complex that individual players are in the dark about what others are doing and how their own payoffs are affected. This paper analyses learning behaviour in such ‘black box’ environments, where players’ only source of information is their own history of actions taken and payoffs received. Specifically we study repeated public goods games, where players must decide how much to contribute at each stage, but they do not know how much others have contributed or how others’ contributions affect their own payoffs. We identify two key features of the players’ learning dynamics. First, if a player’s realised payoff increases he is less inclined to increase his strategy, whereas if his realised payoff decreases he is more inclined to change his strategy. Second, if increasing his own contribution results in higher payoffs he will tend to increase his contribution still further, whereas the reverse holds if an increase in contribution leads to lower payoffs. These two effects are clearly present when players have no information about the game; moreover they are still present even when players have full information. Convergence to Nash equilibrium occurs at about the same rate in both situations. (joint work with M. N. Burton-Chellew, S.A. West, H. P. Young)*

Thursday 20th June, 2pm – 6:15pm

Title: *Measurement of Well-Being in the UK, Europe and OECD countries*

Programme:

2:00-3:15 **Erik Schokkaert** “Beyond GDP. Measuring social progress in Europe”

Abstract. In this paper we study the measurement of social progress. Recently, it has become widely accepted that focusing exclusively on income growth may lead to a too narrow-sighted measure of social progress. People care about other dimensions of life, such as their health, employment, social interactions and personal safety. Moreover, an exclusive focus on income growth remains blind to the distribution of income and well-being in the society. We propose therefore a set of six principles for a richer measure

of social progress. In particular, we advocate the use of a measure based on “equivalent incomes”, which satisfies all our basic principles. We discuss and illustrate how an equivalent income approach can be implemented in Europe, using the ESS data for 2008 and 2010. We find that introducing inequality aversion and including other dimensions in the analysis of social progress leads to a remarkably different perspective on social progress in Europe.

3:30-4:45 **Glenn Everett** “The UK-ONS Measuring National Well-being Programme”

Abstract. By examining and analysing both objective statistics as well as subjective information, a more complete picture of National Well-being can be formed. Understanding people's views of well-being is an important addition to existing Official Statistics and has potential uses in the policy making process and to aid other decision making.

More information can be found on the web site of the Office of National Statistics, Measuring National Well-Being

Programme: www.ons.gov.uk/well-being where there is a link to 'Life in the UK' and the 'Interactive Wheel'.

5:00-6:15 **Romina Boarini** “The OECD Better Life Initiative: Measuring Well-Being”.

Abstract. “The OECD Better Life Initiative measures well-being of people living in OECD countries and a few emerging economies. Drawing upon the recommendations of the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, the OECD has identified 11 dimensions as being essential to well-being, from health and education to local environment, personal security and overall satisfaction with life, as well as more traditional measures such as income. These 11 dimensions are explored and analysed in detail in the How’s Life? report, the first attempt at an international level to present the best set of comparable and comprehensive well-being indicators. At the same time, the OECD created the “Better Life Index” to better understand citizens’ aspirations and support policy making to improve the quality of life. The presentation will provide an overview of the method and findings of the Better Life Initiative as well as envisaged next steps”

Biographies:

Erik Schokkaert is Professor of public economics and welfare economics at the Department of Economics of the KULeuven. He chairs the interdisciplinary think tank “Metaforum” of the KULeuven and has been Research Director of CORE (UCLouvain) in the period 2009-2011. His research focuses on the modelling of different concepts of distributive

justice and well-being. He holds the Belgian Chair in the University of London in 2012-13.

Glenn Everett is the Programme Director for the Measuring National Well-being Programme, Office of National Statistics, UK. He is a career statistician. His career started in the Australian Bureau of Statistics working on range of outputs from social to economic statistics. He moved to UK early 1990s and joined the Government Statistical Service. He was Chief Adviser of Statistics at DTI and at ONS, led the Allsopp Programme and the Neighbourhood Statistics Service, and was the head of National Accounts before becoming Programme Director for Measuring National Well-being in April 2012.

Romina Boarini heads the Monitoring Well-Being and Progress Section of the OECD Statistics Directorate. In this role she is responsible for the statistical work behind the OECD Better Life Initiative, including Your Better Life Index and the report How's Life? Measuring Well-Being. She previously worked as Economist in the OECD Economics Department and in the OECD Social Affairs and Employment Department. Her research interests include well-being, distributive justice, material deprivation and education.”

Map: <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/mapsAndDirections/findingYourWayAroundLSE.aspx>

Organiser: Luc Bovens, Professor, Dept. of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method, LSE (L.Bovens@LSE.ac.uk)

Acknowledgment: This event is made possible by funding from the Belgian Embassy, the Centre for the Philosophy of the Natural and Social Sciences (LSE) and the Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method (LSE). The conference is an event in the series offered by the LSE Choice Group.

Summer term - Week 9: Mon 24/06/2013 – Fri 28/06/2013

Monday 24th June, 5:15pm - 6:45pm

SIGMA

Speaker: L. E. Szabo

Title: *tbc*

Wednesday 26th June, 5:30pm – 7pm

CHOICE GROUP

Speaker: Anna Mahtani (Oxford)

Title: *Tba*

Summer term - Week 10: Mon 01/07/2013 – Fri 05/07/2013

Tuesday 2nd July, 10am - 12pm

PH500: Formal Methods in Social Sciences

Speakers: Katie Steele & Luc Bovens

Wednesday 3rd July, 5:30pm – 7pm

CHOICE GROUP

Speaker: Kristof Madarsz (Economics, LSE)

Title: *tba*

Thursday 4th July, 2pm – 4pm

PH500: Meta-ethics meets decision theory

End of Summer Term 2013.