

DSH 2014/06/19 Second Master class on Logic and Philosophy of Science
supported by the Doctoral School of Human Sciences

Thursday **19 June 2014** 10.00-16.00
Room: D.1.07

This master class on Logic and Philosophy of sciences is organized by The Centre for Logic and Philosophy of Science (CLWF) at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). During this second master class we will focus (i) on qualitative research and discourse analysis in the field of Argumentation Theory and Applied Linguistics; (ii) literature review in History and Philosophy of Science, (iii) Philosophy of Mathematics and Philosophy of Mathematical Practice; and (iv) Artistic Research.

The master class invites PhD students to present their research topic, ongoing research, research overview of the research project, methodology of the project,...

PhD students interested to participate at this master class can register by sending an email to [Patrick Allo](#).

Programme

10:15-11:00	Stéphanie Van Droogenbroeck
11:00-11:45	Antoon Cox
11:45-12:30	Jip van Besouw
<i>Lunch</i>	
13:30-14:15	Joachim Frans
14:15-15:00	Stijn Delabie
15:00-15:45	Ann Eysermans (tbc)

Annex: bio's and abstracts

10:15-11:00 **Stéphanie Van Droogenbroeck**

Diagnostics in clinical practice: The case of the young man with joint pain

We have an image of how the process of diagnostics works in practice: One or more complaints makes us go to the doctor and after the anamnesis and running some tests, the physician tells us what is wrong with us. But the reality of clinical practice is far more complex than this model. We will discuss some critical features of a diagnostic process by analyzing the case of a young man with joint pain.

11:00-11:45 **Antoon Cox**

What if the diagnosis was tongue-tied? Ad hoc interpreting at the Emergency Department

A proliferating literature shows that language barriers are a major cause of health disparities in primary care. Communication plays an equally, if not more, important role in the Emergency Department (ED) and past research has shown that medical errors in the ED often result from poor communication. Specific conditions for communication are very different in the ED than in primary care due to time pressure, potential distraction resulting from long and tiring caregiver shifts, the sense of urgency, and lack of prior information on patients. Many studies consider language barriers

as a major obstacle to proper history-taking in the ED. Furthermore, the five key components of optimal doctor-patient communication (establishing rapport with the patient, gathering and giving information, providing comfort and collaboration) usually need to be performed simultaneously in the ED, and communication is often interrupted by phone calls as the physician is treating more than one patient at the same time. In this presentation we zoom in on the specific problems arising in doctor-patient interactions in the ED. We focus in particular on the perks and problems of interventions by ad-hoc interpreters. We analyze how misunderstandings unfold and scrutinize the data for themes (e.g. What is the pain like?, Since when have you had a fever?, You have a kidney stone,...) that cause confusion.

Short Bio

Antoon Cox is a PhD researcher at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. His research focuses on intercultural and multilingual communication in the emergency department. In this context, he carries out non-participant observation and discourse analysis in a highly multilingual inner city public hospital emergency department in Brussels. Apart from this, Antoon is training and examining community interpreters at the Department of Applied Linguistics of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and at the Flemish Centre for Community interpreting (COC). Before working full-time as a researcher, Antoon was a language teacher (Dutch, English and Spanish) for some years at different levels (in secondary, adult as well as higher education). Antoon Cox holds a Master in Applied Linguistics from Erasmus University College, a Master in Communication and Journalism from the Université Catholique de Louvain and a teacher training certificate from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. In his free time, he makes films and hosts a radio show.

Publications

Cox, A. 2014. "Do You Get the Message? Defining the Interpreter's Role in Medical Interpreting." MonTI, Monographs in Translation and Interpreting, forthcoming.

Cox, A., and Nicolas Dauby. 2014. "The Challenge of Obtaining Informed Consent in a Highly Multilingual Hospital Emergency Department." Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Public Service Translation and Interpreting & 9th International Meeting on Translation (re)visiting Ethics and Ideology in Situations of Conflict, 3-4th April, Alcalá de Henares, Spain, forthcoming.

11:45-12:30 Jip van Besouw

's Gravesande on mathematics, empiricism and certainty

Throughout his career, Willem 's Gravesande (1688-1742) showed a remarkable concern for the certainty of scientific knowledge. Contrary to the dominant philosophies of his time, which held that only mathematics could yield certainty, 's Gravesande strongly argued that 'what is set down in physics, is certain as well'. In this talk, I will give a preliminary survey of my research on 's Gravesande's epistemology and compare his epistemology with that of his immediate predecessors at Leiden University, as well as with those of Descartes (1596-1650) and Locke (1632-1704). I will focus on (i) 's Gravesande's emphasis on the limits of human understanding, (ii) his distinction between *mathematical evidence* and *moral evidence* and the nature of these terms, and (iii) his theological justification for his claim to certainty. As I will show, 's Gravesande reformed the seventeenth-century logic of *clear and distinct ideas* (i.e. 'mathematical demonstrations') and emphasis on sensory perception into an empirico-mathematical machinery that would generate certain knowledge. This knowledge concerned the *description* of natural phenomena only, as the quest for causes was excluded from 's Gravesande's philosophy. This way, 's Gravesande could circumvent questions of justification and legitimacy in his experimental physics, the bulk of his scientific research.

13:30-14:15 Joachim Frans

Mathematical explanation and unification: Where do we go next?

In debates on scientific explanation, one of the ideas used to define explanation is unification. Unifying events consist in showing that two or more events are instances of the same law(s) of nature. This broad idea has been elaborated in different ways, resulting in different models of unificatory explanation. Kitcher states his model covers mathematical explanation as well. This has been criticized by Hafner and Mancosu. In this talk, we will discuss whether other models of unificatory explanation are more promising in order to explicate explanation in mathematics.

14:15-15:00 Stijn Delabie

Philosophy as local knowledge

Globalization, the increasing multipolarity of geopolitical power and multiculturalism are challenging Western thought, and - more specifically - the discipline of philosophy itself. Important basic intuitions become questioned and, therefore, need some profound rethinking.

To begin with, Western thought cannot continue to assume it can speak for all of mankind. Likewise, the idea of universality comes into jeopardy, questioning the very ground philosophy is built upon. But it seems doubtful philosophy can persist as local knowledge.

Moreover, the critique directed to the West by authors in the former colonies becomes more and more unavoidable. Demanding their fair place in the world, these writers question the way the West claims its position in the epistemological heart of knowledge, as if beyond any cultural pollution. In the meantime, a new invitation presents itself, trying to explore the possibilities of true intellectual globalization, asking - politely - for a fresh, genuine encounter.

Short Bio

Stijn Delabie is performing anthropological philosophical research on Richard Rorty, Bruno Latour and Walter Dignolo.