

PHILOSOPHY READING WEEKEND/ 17-18 FEBRUARY 2018

*School of European Culture and Languages
Department of Philosophy*

PROGRAMME

Saturday

10.30-12.45 First Session

- Abi Roberts, “Inclusion in Academic Philosophy”
Abstract: This talk will examine the nature of inclusion within the academic field of philosophy, focussing on three dimensions: gender, race, and disability. I’ll provide an overview of where we are now, and why I think we are this way. I then invite a conversation on what we, as an academic field, can do to improve.
- Tom Alberto, “Legalisation of Recreational Drugs”
Abstract: Prohibitionists argue that drugs ought to be prohibited on the grounds of harms to self, harms to others, criminal harms to others, and/or a combination of all three. Legalisers have typically sought to show these reasons are not persuasive because they would be equal justification for the prohibition of uncontroversial legal activities. I will show that these comparisons are disanalogous and then identify where the conflict really lies.

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00-16.30 Coastal-Countryside Walk (led by Alyx Robinson)

16.45-18.45 Debate

- Daniel Auker-Howlett and Gavin Thomson, “On the Philosophical Merits of Wine vs. Beer”
Abstract: An applied philosophical debate between the Philosophy Department’s resident oenophile and all-round gastronome, Daniel, and enthusiastic imbibers/occasional brewer of fermented grain-based beverages, Gavin. Each speaker will espouse the relative merits of their favoured tippie, with a view to situating wine and beer as cultural artefacts that warrant genuine philosophical discussion in the context of areas such as aesthetics, perception, and judgments of value.

19.00-20.00 Dinner

21.00- Pub, The Five Bells

Sunday

9.00-10.00 Breakfast

10.00-12.30 Second Session

- Callum Elcock, “Transformative Experience”
Abstract: Why should we be concerned with certain experiences in our lives?
- Rhiannon Ellis, “Cryonics: Ethics on Ice”
Abstract: With scientific advancements making marvels of science fiction increasingly feasible, I will discuss the ethical implications of the process of cryonics: that is, the process of deep-freezing a body post-mortem in the hopes of preserving the body for future revival. Should we embrace cryonics as the future of funerary practice?

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.45 Depart