Philosophy of Mind: Subjective Perspectives -16:730:575:01 crosslisted with 16:185:602:01

Spring 2024, Thursday 12:00 – 2:45 PM in the seminar room of the philosophy department
Susanna Schellenberg (susanna.schellenberg@icloud.com)
Office hours: by appointment

Overview: What is the nature of a subjective perspective? Under what conditions do subjective perspectives change? What are the consequences of having a first-person point of view? How does your perspective and mine differ; how are they the same? Do less rational animals or AI have subjective perspectives? If yes, how does the perspective of us humans differ from that of a less rational animal or a machine algorithm? And again, how are our perspectives the same as those of a rat or a robot? This seminar will discuss these questions and aim to find answers.

Reading and format: We will discuss papers by Adrian Alsmith, Elisabeth Camp, Herman Cappelen, Frederique de Vignemont, Sean Gallagher, Manuel Garcia-Carpintero, Albert Newen, Dilip Ninan, Raphaël Millière, Laurie Paul, Chris Peacocke, François Recanati, Kate Ritchie, Marya Schechtman, Josh Tennenbaum, as well as three published papers and several manuscripts by myself.

Most of the people listed above will join us for part of the relevant meeting to field questions on the reading. All our welcome to attend and audit.

Requirements for those who are registered:

1. **Reading Response Requirement:** Each student must submit two responses to the reading for each class meeting. A reading response could be a simple clarificatory question, a comment on something you found particularly intriguing, a question about something that you would like to hear more about, a disagreement you have with an idea in the paper, or anything in that vein. The reading responses determine 25% of your grade and must be submitted by email by 10pm on the day before the relevant class meeting.

2. **Abstract Requirement:** Each student must submit a 200-word abstract for their seminar paper. The abstract will present the question your paper addresses, the thesis for which you are arguing, and it will explain why that question and thesis are interesting. It is standard for there to be an evolution of the thesis and question between writing the abstract and submitting the final paper. The abstract will determine 10% of your grade and is due on March 20.

3. **Paper Outline Requirement:** Each student must submit a 1-page outline of their seminar paper. The outline should list each section title and subsection title of your paper along with a 1-2 sentence description of what will happen in that section. The outline will determine 5% of your grade and is due on April 3.

4. **Handout Requirement:** Each student must make a 1-page handout and distribute it before their presentation. The handout will contain the thesis of the seminar paper, the main question addressed as well as the key ideas and arguments of the seminar paper. The handout will determine 10% of your grade and is due right before the presentation of the paper.

5. **Presentation Requirement:** There will be a workshop at the end of the seminar at which each student will present their seminar paper. The presentation will determine 20% of your grade.

6. **Paper Requirement:** Each student must submit one seminar paper (about 20-pages). This is the same paper that you will have presented. Papers should be typed, double-spaced, 12pt font, 1” margins, and submitted by email. The paper will determine 30% of your grade and is due on May 15.

Those registered for the non-research option: Requirements 1-5.
The syllabus may change, so please consult the syllabus in the dropbox folder occasionally.

Week 1: 01/18

Introduction

Week 1: 01/25

Perspectives and Self-Representation (Chris Peacocke will zoom in to field questions at 2 pm)

Reading:

Week 2: 02/01

The Minimal Self (Sean Gallagher will zoom in to field questions at 2 pm)

Reading:

Week 3: 02/08

Is There a Self? (Raphaël Milliere and Albert Newen will zoom in to field questions at 2 pm)

Reading:
- Schellenberg, S. (manuscript): “Perspectives and Self-Representation”

Week 4: 02/15

Self-Orientration (Laurie Paul will zoom in to field questions at 12:15-1:30 pm; 1:30-3 pm the seminar will be combined with Laurie Paul’s grad seminar at Yale via zoom)

Reading:

Week 5: 02/22

De Se Content and Indexicals (Manuel Garcia-Carpintero will zoom in to field questions at 12:30 pm)

Reading:
- Schellenberg, S. (manuscript): “Varieties of De Se Content”

Week 6: 02/29

Self Files and De Se Content (François Recanati will zoom in to field questions at 1:30 pm)
Reading:

Optional Reading:
  o Recanati, F. (2007): Perspectival Thought. OUP

Week 7: 03/07

Spatial Anchoring (Adrian Alsmith will zoom in to field questions at 12:30 pm)

Reading:
  o Schellenberg, S. (manuscript): “Perspectival Spatial Anchoring”

Optional Reading:

Spring Recess

Week 8: 03/21 (discuss abstracts)

Bodily Anchoring (Frederique de Vignemont will zoom in to field questions at 12:15 pm)

Reading:

Schemas (presentation of my manuscript)

Week 9: 03/28

Subjective Perspectives and Perspectival Variance (perspectival properties)

Reading:

Week 10: 04/04 (discuss outlines)

Schemas, Frames, and Framing Devices

Reading:
  o Schellenberg, S. (manuscript): “Perspectives and Schemas”
Week 11: 04/11

**Self-Concepts** (Liz Camp will zoom in to field questions on reading from last week 12-1pm; Kate Ritchie will zoom in to field questions at 1:30pm)

**Reading:**
- Ritchie, K: “Labelling unlabeled identities”

Week 12: 04/18 no seminar

Week 13: 04/25 Workshop 10am-3pm. Keynote speaker TBD.