

***Epistemology of Perception:
Wilfrid Sellars and the Myth of the Given***
Dr. Alfredo Vernazzani

Vernanstaltungsnummer: 030090

Di 10:00 -12:00 c.t.
GA BF 04/358

Description:

Wilfrid Sellars (1912 – 1989) stands out as one of the most important philosophers of the 20th century. In his work, he sought to formulate a «scientifically oriented, naturalistic realism which would ‘save the appearances’» (“Autobiographical Reflections” 1973). Philosophers like John McDowell, Robert Brandom, Jay Rosenberg, Danielle Macbeth, Paul and Patricia S. Churchland, Richard Rorty, and many others have been influenced by his work. Among his papers, the most influential one has been his “Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind” (EPM) (1956) where Sellars attacked the ‘Myth of the Given’, touching on issues such as the nature of perceptual experience, epistemology of perception, and the philosophy of language.

In this seminar, we will read, comment, and contextualize EPM.

For an overview of Sellars’ philosophy, I recommend deVries’ (2016) entry “Wilfrid Sellars” in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*:
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/sellars/>.

Literature:

I recommend buying the following edition of Sellars’ EPM:

- Wilfrid Sellars (1997) *Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. With an Introduction by Richard Rorty, and a study guide by Robert Brandom.

Additional material will be made available on Moodle.

Program

EPM: Sellars' "Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind"
KMG: DeVries & Triplett's *Knowledge, Mind, and the Given*

MEETING	TOPIC	TEXT
21.04.2020	<i>Introduction</i>	KMG: "Introduction" (2005) (pp. xv-xlvi)
28.04.2020	<i>An Ambiguity in Sense-Datum Theories</i>	EPM: §§ 1-7 KMG: pp. 1-15.
05.05.2020	<i>Another Language?</i>	EPM: §§ 8-9 KMG: pp. 16-18.
12.05.2020	<i>The Logic of "Looks"</i>	EPM: §§ 10-20 KMG: pp. 19-33
19.05.2020	<i>Explaining Looks</i>	EPM: §§ 21-23 KMG: pp. 34-45
26.05.2020	<i>Impressions and Ideas</i>	EPM: §§ 24-29 KMG: pp. 46-58.
09.06.2020	<i>The Logic of "Means"</i>	EPM: §§ 30-31 KMG: pp. 59-66.
16.06.2020	<i>Does Knowledge Have an Empirical Foundation?</i>	EPM: §§ 32-38 KMG: 67-107.
23.06.2020	<i>Science and Ordinary Usage</i>	EPM: §§ 39-44 KMG: pp. 108-116.
30.06.2020	<i>Private Episodes, Thoughts, The Myth of Jones</i>	EPM: §§ 45-50 KMG: pp. 117-131.

07.07.2020	<i>Theories and Models, Behaviorism</i>	EPM: §§ 51-55 KMG: pp. 132-140
14.07.2020	<i>The Logic of Private Episodes, Thoughts, and Conclusion</i>	EPM: §§ 56-63 KMG: pp. 141-178