Speaker

Tracy Llanera is a PhD Candidate in Philosophy at Macquarie University. She is specifically interested in the scholarship on Richard Rorty, and more generally in philosophy of religion and American pragmatism. Her thesis, entitled “Richard Rorty: Rethinking Redemption in Modernity,” was submitted in June 2015. Her teaching responsibilities at Macquarie University and Open Universities Australia include the units Philosophy, Morality, and Society, Philosophy of Religion, and Theories of Justice.

Abstract

In recent debates on the sacred in a secular age, some contemporary philosophers have identified the combination of anthropocentrism/nihilism as the primary existential malaise of modernity. Two key positions have emerged as a response: expressivism + renewed theism (Charles Taylor) and Homeric polytheism (Hubert Dreyfus and Sean Kelly). Both projects aim to remedy the spiritually impoverishing effects of nihilism by revealing and articulating modern sources of human meaning and fulfilment. This paper suggests an alternative approach. It raises the argument that Richard Rorty’s work on redemptive self-enlargement as an antidote to egotism can reveal a way to undercut the modern phenomenon of nihilism.

Date:       Wednesday 12th August, 2015
Time:       12.30 pm – 1.30 pm
Venue:      Moorgate Directors' Boardroom (NDS 16-103)

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