



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

ONLINE JOINT SEMINAR

The University of Hong Kong
Lingnan University
National University of Singapore

Dr. Jan Heylen
KU Leuven

Bare demonstratives, non-referentialism and the logical challenge

Monday
26 April 2021
4:30-6:15 pm

Zoom link:  <https://lingnan.zoom.us/j/91761022322>

Abstract:

There are different theories about the semantic referents of bare demonstratives. Smit (2012) has argued that it is a consequence of the standard view of communication and efficiency considerations that bare demonstratives do not have a semantic referent. This does not bar successful communication with bare demonstratives. In this paper we will develop a neutral free logic for bare demonstratives, which combines the non-referentialism about bare demonstratives with the “No Input, No Output”-principle. It will be explained how this logic can deal with empty domains, what the preferred notion of validity is, and how to develop an elegant natural deduction system. Then we will discuss the logical challenge both in terms of the formal semantics and in terms of the standard view of communication. If time permits, we will also talk about complex demonstratives.

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Co-organized by:

