

Workshop

Epistemology, Context, Formalism

November 12-14, 2009

Lorraine Institute for Social Sciences and Humanities
(MSH Lorraine - 91 Avenue de la Libération - Nancy - France)

Speakers

- Brad Armendt** (Arizona State University)
Peter Baumann (Swarthmore College)
Johan van Benthem (ILLC, Amsterdam & Stanford University)
Roger Clarke (University of British Columbia)
Dylan Dodd (University of Aberdeen)
Julien Dutant (University of Geneva)
John Hawthorne (University of Oxford)
Vincent Hendricks (University of Copenhagen & Columbia University)
Hans Kamp (Universität Stuttgart)
Erich Rast (Universidade Nova de Lisboa)
Giacomo Sillari (University of Pennsylvania)
Paula Sweeney (University of Aberdeen)
Richmond Thomason (University of Michigan)
Robert van Rooij (ILLC, Amsterdam)
Crispin Wright (Arché, The University of St Andrews)

Organization

Manuel Rebuschi (LHSP-AHP) & Franck Lihoreau (Universidade Nova de Lisboa)
LHSP - Archives H. Poincaré (UMR 7117CNRS), Nancy-Université (Université Nancy 2),
Projet DiaRaFor (MSH Lorraine, USR 3261)

With support of



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Université Nancy 2

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La Région
Lorraine

Workshop EpiConFor. *Epistémologie, contexte, formalisme*

November 12-14, 2009, MSH de Lorraine (Nancy)

Presentation

The purpose of the workshop is to tighten and strengthen the connections between current researches bearing on the following three pairs of topics:

Context and Epistemology. In the last decades epistemology has seen a major “linguistic turn”, through the increased reliance, in contemporary debates, on syntactic, semantic and pragmatic “evidence” about ordinary (uses of) linguistic constructions in terms of “know”, most notably as a result of the flourishing discussions over the epistemological relevance of various notions of context (of inquiry, of attribution, of assessment, etc.).

Epistemology and Logic. In addition to its “linguistic turn” epistemology has also seen a “logical turn”, through the recently revived and rising conviction that discussions in mainstream epistemology may benefit from formal epistemology (epistemic logic, formal learning theory, belief revision, and so on) which, however, has had close to nothing to say about context (modulo a few exceptions).

Logic and Context. While well-known approaches to context can be found in natural language semantics and pragmatics, the only logics of context properly speaking are to be found in theoretical computer science where, however, the main logical treatments of context owe nothing or so to philosophy (again, modulo a few exceptions).

The workshop is thus intended as an occasion to bring together researchers working on either one of the above intersections, or at the intersection of the three topics.

Although all the papers presented on that occasion are expected to bear importantly on properly philosophical issues, as part of the MSH Lorraine-based DiaRaFor research project, special emphasis shall be put on specific formal epistemological accounts. The workshop will set the stage for a projected volume of collected papers dedicated to the topic(s).

NB: The Workshop language is English.

Thursday, November 12

- 9.30-10.20: Registration

Chair: Gerhard Heinzmann

- 10.20: Opening
- 10.30-11.20:
Peter Baumann (Swarthmore College)
“A Contradiction for Contextualism?”
- 11.30-12.20:
Erich Rast (Universidade Nova de Lisboa)
“Contexts as Assumptions”

Chair: Hans Kamp

- 14.30-15.20:
Brad Armendt (Arizona State University)
“Pragmatic Interests and the Strength of Belief”
- 15.30-17.00: *Invited talk*
Richmond Thomason (University of Michigan)
“Loosening up agents and their propositional attitudes”

Friday, November 13

Chair: Vincent Hendricks

- 10.00-11.30: *Invited talk*
Johan van Benthem (ILLC, Amsterdam & Stanford University)
“Logic, Mathematics, and General Agency”
- 11.40-12.30:
Julien Dutant (University of Geneva)
“Methods-based models for knowledge”

Chair: Johan van Benthem

- 14.30-15.20:
Roger Clarke (University of British Columbia)
“Contextualizing Degrees of Belief”
- 15.30-16.20:
Dylan Dodd (University of Aberdeen)
“Knowledge and belief: eliminating the possibilities”
- 16.30-18.00: *Invited talk*
Vincent Hendricks (University of Copenhagen & Columbia University)
“General Dynamics: Agents and Agendas”

Saturday, November 14

Chair: Richmond Thomason

- 10.00-11.30: *Invited talk*
Hans Kamp (Universität Stuttgart) “Referring and Describing: The Referential-Attributive Distinction from a twenty first Century Perspective”
- 11.40-12.30:
Paula Sweeney (University of Aberdeen)
“Epistemic Modals and Content-relativism”

Chair: Paul Gochet

- 14.30-15.20:
Giacomo Sillari (University of Pennsylvania)
“The Circumstances of Disagreement”
- 15.30-17.00: *Invited talk*
John Hawthorne (University of Oxford)
“Contextualism revisited”

NB: Crispin Wright (Arché, The University of St Andrews) and **Robert van Rooij** (ILLC, Amsterdam) cancelled their talks.

Registration

The conference fee will be 30 euros (10 euros for unemployed and students). It covers the conference kit and lunches. It is payable upon arrival.

Pre-registration is obligatory.

Programme Committee

Denis Bonnay (Paris 10), Paul Egré (Paris), Pascal Engel (Genève), Paul Gochet (Liège), Gerhard Heinzmann (Nancy 2), Hans Kamp (Stuttgart), Roger Pouivet (Nancy 2), Shahid Rahman (Lille 3), Helge Rückert (Mannheim), Richmond Thomason (Univ. of Michigan), Claudine Tiercelin (Paris 12).

Local Organizing Committee

Yannick Chin, Katarzyna Gan-Krzywoszynska, Jules-Henri Greber, Franck Lihoreau, Michel Musiol, Manuel Rebuschi, Marion Renauld, Fabien Schang.

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With support of: CNRS, Région Lorraine, Université Nancy 2, MSH de Lorraine

Registration online form, as well as travel and accommodation information, are available from the workshop website (check “epiconfor” with Google)

Contact : epiconfor@univ-nancy2.fr