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Public Lecture



Dr. Tracy Ann Scholl

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“Imagination in Late Scholastic and Early Modern Thought”

Monday, March 9, 2015, at 2:00 PM
Conference Room - Building D

Abstract

In contemporary language, the mental activity might refer to a variety of intentional mental states from conceptualizing alternate possibilities to day dreaming during lectures. In comparison, Scholastic and early Modern philosophers stipulated that imagination –*imaginatio*– is a specific mental function involving both brain activity as well mental function and therefore necessarily psychophysiological by nature. As such, late Scholastics and early Modern thinkers closely tied imagination to the mental function of sensory function. This is revealed particularly in *Descartes’s Meditations*, where he highlights how imagination is distinct from conceptualization done by “the pure intellect” alone. This also reveals that retaining the Scholastic conception of *imaginatio* as a thoroughly psychophysiological phenomenon creates theoretical difficulties for Cartesian dualism not found in Scholastic hylomorphic theories.

About the Speaker

Dr. Ann Scholl is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at UAEU, where she also serves as Coordinator of Mobile Learning for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr. Scholl is the author of *Descartes’ Dreams: Imagination in the Meditations* and other works in areas of applied ethics and ethics in corporate governance.