

Severin Schroeder

The Philosophy of Mind

kultur- und
sozialwissenschaften

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Introduction of the author

Severin Schroeder teaches philosophy at the universities of Oxford and Reading. His main research interests are the philosophy of Wittgenstein, the philosophy of mind, and aesthetics. He is the author of *Das Privatsprachen-Argument: Wittgenstein über Empfindung und Ausdruck* (Schöningh 1998), *Wittgenstein: The Way Out of the Fly-Bottle* (Polity 2006), and *Wittgenstein lesen: Ein Kommentar zu ausgewählten Passagen der "Philosophischen Untersuchungen"* (Frommann-Holzboog, forthcoming). He is the editor of *Wittgenstein and Contemporary Philosophy of Mind* (Palgrave 2001), and is currently editing a collection of articles on the philosophy of literature (Blackwell).

Teaching goals

After having completed this course, the student

- should have an overview over a British tradition in analytical philosophy;
- gain an insight into some major problems in the philosophy of mind and some solutions proposed for these problems in the context of that tradition;
- be made familiar with Ludwig Wittgenstein's philosophy as an analytical tool in the philosophy of mind.

Bibliography

Abbreviations of works by WITTGENSTEIN

- AL** *Wittgenstein's Lectures, Cambridge, 1932-1935*, ed.: A. Ambrose, Oxford: Blackwell, 1979.
- BB** *The Blue and Brown Books*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1958; German transl. of *The Blue Book: Das Blaue Buch, Werkausgabe*, Bd. 5, Ffm 1989.
- BT** *The Big Typescript*, = TS 213, published as WA vol. 11; ch. 'Philosophie', 405-35 published and tr. in PO, 160-99.
- CE** *Cause and Effect: Intuitive Awareness*, in PO, 370-426. German ed. in: *Vortrag über Ethik*, Ffm 1989, 101-139.
- CV** *Culture and Value*, rev. ed., ed.: G.H. von Wright; tr.: P. Winch, Oxford: Blackwell, 1998.
- EPB** *Eine philosophische Betrachtung*, in: *Werkausgabe*, Bd. 5, Frankfurt/Main: Suhrkamp 1989; 117-282.
- LPP** *Lectures on Philosophical Psychology 1946-47*, Notes by P.T. Geach, K.J. Shah, A.C. Jackson; ed.: P.T. Geach, Hemel Hempstead: Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1988. German ed. as: *Vorlesungen über die Philosophie der Psychologie 1946/47*, Ffm 1991.
- LW** *Last Writings on the Philosophy of Psychology*, eds.: G.H. von Wright, H. Nyman; tr.: C.V. Luckhardt, M.A.E. Aue, Oxford: Blackwell, 1982. German ed. in: *Werkausgabe*, Bd. 7.
- LW II** *Last Writings on the Philosophy of Psychology. Vol. 2*, eds.: G.H. von Wright, H. Nyman; tr.: C.V. Luckhardt, M.A.E. Aue, Oxford: Blackwell, 1992. German ed. as: *Letzte Schriften über die Philosophie der Psychologie. Das Innere und das Äußere. (1949-1951)*, Ffm 1993.
- MS** Unpublished manuscript, numbered in accordance with von Wright's catalogue (1982).
- NfL** *Notes for Lectures on "Private Experience" and "Sense Data"* (1934-36), in PO, 202-88. German ed. in: *Vortrag über Ethik*, Ffm 1989, 101-139.

- OC** *On Certainty*, eds: G.E.M. Anscombe & G.H. von Wright, tr.: D. Paul & G.E.M. Anscombe, Oxford: Blackwell, 1961. German ed. as: *Über Gewissheit*, Ffm 1970.
- PG** *Philosophical Grammar*, ed.: R. Rhees, tr.: A.J.P. Kenny, Oxford: Blackwell, 1974. German ed. as: *Philosophische Grammatik* in: *Werkausgabe*, Bd. 4, Ffm 1989.
- PI** *Philosophical Investigations*, ed.: G.E.M. Anscombe & R. Rhees, tr.: G.E.M. Anscombe, Oxford: Blackwell: 1953. German ed. as: *Philosophische Untersuchungen* in: *Werkausgabe*, Bd. 1, Ffm 1984.
- PO** *Philosophical Occasions 1912-1951*, eds: J. Klagge & A. Nordmann, Indianapolis: Hackett, 1993.
- RFM** *Remarks on the Foundations of Mathematics*, eds: G.H. von Wright, R. Rhees, G.E.M. Anscombe; tr.: G.E.M. Anscombe, rev. ed., Oxford: Blackwell, 1978. German ed. as: *Bemerkungen über die Grundlagen der Mathematik*, in: *Werkausgabe*, Bd. 6, Ffm 1984.
- RPP** *Remarks on the Philosophy of Psychology*, 2 vols, eds.: G.E.M. Anscombe, G.H. von Wright, H. Nyman; tr.: G.E.M. Anscombe, C.V. Luckhardt, M.A.E. Aue, Oxford: Blackwell, 1980. German ed. as: *Bemerkungen über die Philosophie der Psychologie*, Bde 1 und 2, in: *Werkausgabe*, Bd. 7, Ffm 1989.
- TS** Unpublished typescript, numbered in accordance with von Wright's catalogue (1982).
- WA** *Wiener Ausgabe*, ed.: Michael Nedo, Vienna: Springer, 1993ff.
- WVC** *Ludwig Wittgenstein and the Vienna Circle*. Conversations recorded by Friedrich Waismann, ed.: B. McGuinness, tr.: J. Schulte & B. McGuinness, Oxford: Blackwell 1979. German ed. as: *Ludwig Wittgenstein und der Wiener Kreis*, in: *Werkausgabe*, Bd. 3, Ffm 1989.
- Z** *Zettel*, eds: G.E.M. Anscombe & G.H. von Wright, tr.: G.E.M. Anscombe, Oxford: Blackwell, 1967. German ed. as: "Zettel", in: *Werkausgabe*, Bd. 8, Ffm 1989.

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0 Preface

In 1984 ANTHONY KENNY warned that ‘some of the philosophical gains we owe to Wittgenstein seem in danger of being lost’.

This is not because his work has been superseded or put in the shade by the light of some succeeding philosophical genius. Rather, his contribution has been neglected because more and more philosophers, especially in the United States, have attempted to model their studies on the pattern of a rigorously scientific discipline, mimicking the type of precision characteristic of mathematics, and holding up [...] an abstract system for artificial intelligence as the goal of philosophy of mind. [Kenny 1984, vii-viii]

KENNY’s admonition reads as apt and urgent today as it did 20 years ago. Ignorance or confusion about the peculiarity of philosophy vis-à-vis the empirical sciences and a striving for pseudo-scientific theory construction are still the order of the day, uncritically accepted by most contemporary introductions to the philosophy of mind. This course has been designed to offer to students a different approach to the subject, very much against the grain of current academic fashions. WITTGENSTEIN’S profound insights, which have lost nothing of their relevance to philosophical debates over the last sixty years, are taken as a starting point.

In order to avoid confusion in this area it is extremely important to have a clear grasp of the nature of a philosophical problem, as opposed to a scientific problem. This, therefore, is the topic of Chapter 1, which as a foundation to the rest of the course presents WITTGENSTEIN’S philosophical methodology, and, by demonstrating its application in a number of simple cases, affords the student some practical training in philosophical problem solving.

Chapter 2 contains a brief sketch of Cartesian Dualism, as a necessary background to WITTGENSTEIN’S own philosophy of mind, which is the topic of Chapter 3.

Chapter 4 then, by far the longest part of the course, examines major issues and positions in today’s philosophy of mind.