



On April the 5th 2024, the PHILSIG co-hosts with the EPSIG a half-day in-person event with Dr Iain McGilchrist. The title of the event is “The nature and importance of brain asymmetry; an afternoon with Iain McGilchrist”. Dr Iain McGilchrist is a retired psychiatrist and clinical director. He was previously an Oxford don in English literature. He has authored a number of major works that have attracted worldwide attention. These include ‘The Master and his Emissary’ and ‘The Matter with Things’. He is widely considered one of the pre-eminent thinkers of our time. This event will include presentations by Dr McGilchrist followed by open discussion. There is a limited number of places for this event so book early to avoid disappointment.

The Philosophy SIG looks for a new financial officer. There is still time to apply. For more info look at the Special Interest Group Elections page. The deadline is the 26th of January.



2023 has been a year of change, as all years are and going to be, but somehow it felt different this time. Capturing this experience of difference in concrete propositional terms is arguably an elusive task. From a phenomenological standpoint, the difference appears to emerge from a shift in the perceived temporal flow of the emerging conditions of possibility for intersubjective life. The main disruptive quality in the experience of our shared lifeworld is that of accelerated pace of change.

When looking at the future, a business-as-usual temporal flow provides us for the most part with the ability to assimilate, adapt and change while maintaining a feeling of being attuned, and, to some degree, informed agents of it. The sped-up pace with which in 2023 the discourse on artificial intelligence and its impact in almost all forms of social life dominated, made it be a different year. Regardless of utopian/messianic claims or complete dismissal around its true potential, there is no doubt that the "coming wave", to use the title of the recent book by Deep Mind co-founder Mustafa Suleyman, will have profound effects on our everyday lives. The amount of intellectual and financial capital invested in the field is expected to increase significantly in coming years. According to an estimate by Goldman Sachs there is an exponential increase in investments in the field that will lead to wide adoption in the second half of the decade.

The promises and perils of AI Multimodal AI of the likes of Google LAMs (Large Action Models-AI agents) expanding field of possibilities, bring horizon a degree of uncertainty and future that exercises a gravitational pull. There are already disruptive effects in professional practice, and the job market. systems will learn and mimic human proportionate effects in the fabric of principles of resource efficiency and highest value. Our 2024 annual conference, for the 2nd of October 2024 will dive deep issues relating to the use of artificial psychiatry and mental healthcare.

systems such as LLMs, Gemini Ultra, or emerging as polar opposites of an to our intentional unpredictability about the pull impossible to ignore. education, research, arts, To what degree these action will have directly societies where technological functional outcomes hold the scheduled as an online event and explore the emerging intelligent systems in



Past Events

Philosophical psychopathology: Bridging descriptive accounts with first person perspectives: An interdisciplinary workshop 6th of April 2023– Royal College of Psychiatry



Prof Femi Oyebode



The "Philosophical Psychopathology Workshop" received positive feedback. Participants found the concepts and ideas explored interesting. The overall experience was rated as excellent by 63% and very good by 25%. A significant 88% found the content highly relevant to their interests and needs.

Attendees appreciated the integration of phenomenological philosophy and psychopathology in psychiatric practice, with 56% finding it extremely valuable and relevant. Participants enjoyed the exposure to presenters who are not psychiatrists, the opportunity for interdisciplinary discussions, and the interactive format. Suggestions for improvement included more time for group discussions, better structured breakout sessions, and the creation of an environment that enhances participation from attendees. These are all helpful suggestions and will take them into consideration in planning similar events in the future.

Word-cloud poll



Prof Marcin Moskalewicz



Prof Francesca Brencio

***Philosophy SIG and HoPSIG event / Psychiatry, Society and the State:
The end of political neutrality?
1st of February 2024 – online webinar***



George Ikkos

Are politics and psychiatry inextricably linked? Historically, professions have both been expected and seen themselves as being above the explicitly political arena. The reality is that politics has always been crucial to provide care, most obviously seen perhaps with the foundation of the NHS and the policies of deinstitutionalization.



Jed Boardman

In recent decades there has been an overwhelming accumulation of evidence that social factors, often summarised as structural inequalities, are hugely influential both in health in general and in mental health in particular. With respect to mental health, they are crucial both in the generational morbidity and the provision of services.

This event aims to explore whether the idea of professional neutrality has run its course and whether the time has come for a renewed professional activism in psychiatry and mental health.

In this event George Ikkos, joint editor of Mind State and Society; Psychiatry and Mental Health in Britain 1960–2010 (Society of American Publishers PROSE silver award in category of science, medicine and technology, 2022) will review the history of British psychiatry since the 1960s in its social and political context with a view to responding better to today's demands.

Jed Boardman, joint author of Social Inclusion and Mental Health; Understanding Poverty, Inequality and Social Exclusion, will examine the social exclusion of people with mental health conditions and the inequalities in mental health services provision.

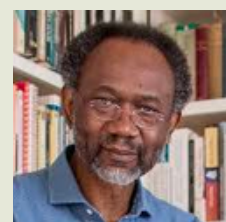
Trudi Seneviratne, RCPsych Registrar, Prof Rob Poole and Prof Femi Oyeboode will provide commentary followed by an extensive Q&A session



Rob Poole



**Trudi
Seneviratne**



Femi Oyeboode

Please note: The College is politically neutral and any political opinions or statements made by individuals during this event do not represent the views of the College.

Future Events

PhilSIG and EPSIG event / The nature and importance of brain asymmetry; an afternoon with Iain McGilchrist

05th of April 2024 at the Royal College of Psychiatry



Dr Iain McGilchrist

This is an exciting event and a rare opportunity to dive into Iain McGilchrist's impressive interdisciplinary effort and how it relates to our profession as psychiatrists. Here is an overview of the programme:

1pm – 2pm – Registration and coffee

2pm – 2.05pm – Introduction, Dr David Geaney

2.05pm – 3.30pm – Session 1: 'Hemisphere theory and the implications for psychiatry', Chaired by Dr Annie Swanepoel.

This session will be primarily based in neurology and neuroscience. It will address the important advances made in understanding brain asymmetry, its evolutionary origins, and the light it casts on aspects of neuropsychological functioning in different kinds of mental illness. It will also deal with its implications for phenomenology and the nature of the human mind, and ask how this might influence the diagnosis and treatment of patients.

Your 3.30pm – 3.45pm – Coffee break

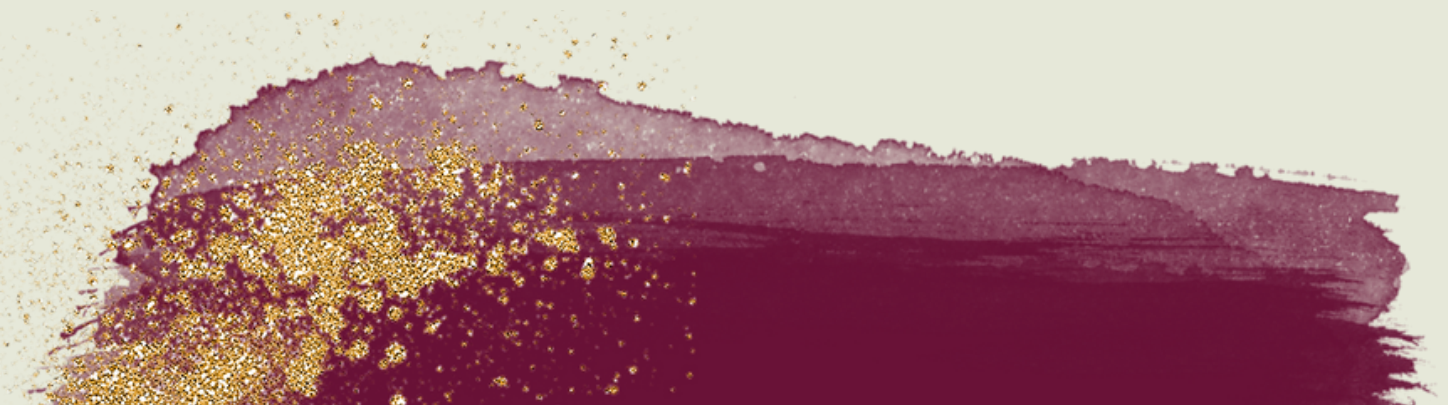
3.45pm – 5.15pm – Session 2: 'The philosophical implications for the humane practice of medicine', Chaired by Dr Tassos Dimopoulos

This session will discuss the wider philosophical implications for the way we regard clinical practice both in psychiatry and more generally in medicine: the influence of models, the need for integrating different approaches, the significance of context and relationship, and ultimately how we see the human being and human life itself.

5.15pm – Event Close



6pm – 8.30pm – Dinner (for those who have booked this option)



Events by other providers

Events advertised in the International Network of Philosophy and Psychiatry website

Several events are taking place in the near future that can be of interest to many of you. Great destinations and themes to attend.

20–21st of February London, UK

The Philosophy and Medicine department of the KCL organises a two-day workshop, on 20th and 21st of February 2024 looking at Function and Dysfunction in medicine and Psychiatry. The event is free and you can register via Eventbrite



6–7 of May 2024, New York USA

The Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry – 35th Annual Meeting 6th and 7th of May 2024
The conference will take place in New York City. contact the organisers for more details



23–25 of May 2024 Vienna, Austria

The postponed INPP 25th INPP conference will take place between the 23rd and 25th of May 2024 at Vienna. the topic of the conference is “Crisis and Mental Health: philosophical and social aesthetic perspectives”

