

On the very idea of experiment: External critiques of X-Phi

Speakers : Eric McCreedy (Aoyama Gakuin University), Masaharu Mizumoto (JAIST), Raiten Taya (Okayama University),
Chair and Commentator: Tomoyuki Yamada (Hokkaido University)
Speaker and Commentator: Stephen Stich (Rutgers University),
Organizer: Masaharu Mizumoto

Recent fashion (or revival) of the use of experimental methods in philosophy has caused a lot of interesting meta-philosophical debates. They, however, mostly revolve around the notion of (the status of) *intuition*. In this workshop, we instead try to discuss this experimental philosophy movement from somewhat external points of view, and focus on the very notion of *experiment* of experimental philosophy, from the perspective of what it is like to do experiment for scientists, in particular linguists (who, like philosophers, have mostly relied on their own grammatical or semantic intuitions) and psychologists (who had been philosophers until they began experiments), and from Wittgenstein's point of view (who famously rejected any experiment in mathematics and was very critical of even experimental psychology).

More specifically, each speaker addresses an aspect of experiment in experimental philosophy from

- (1) a linguist's point of view: How and why are linguists' use of a priori intuition justified? How do they find philosophers' debates over linguistic intuitions, especially the status of those of experts and laymen?,
- (2) a psychologist's (especially historical) point of view: Are all psychologists experimental philosophers? What did early psychologists find themselves to be? How do they find current research of experimental philosophy?, and
- (3) a Wittgensteinian point of view: Given his notion of family resemblance, was he critical of conceptual analysis? Or given his emphasis on normativity in conceptual investigations, was he critical of any experimental approach to linguistic concepts? Isn't experimental philosophy based on conceptual confusion for him, just as he criticized experimental psychology?

We have as a guest speaker a pioneer and propagandist of this X-Phi movement, Professor Steven Stich of Rutgers University, and he will respond to each of the speakers.

Time Table

- 1) Introduction (1): Experimental philosophy and some questions from an armchair philosopher (Yamada) --- 15minuts
- 2) Introduction (2): What is experimental philosophy? (Stich) --- 20 minutes
- 3) "Reference and Linguistic Intuitions" (McCready) --- 20minutes
- 4) "On Experimental Psychology and Philosophy" (Taya) --- 20 minutes
- 5) "*Mathematical, Psychological, and Philosophical (?) Experiments for Wittgenstein*" (Mizumoto) --- 20 minutes
- 6) Comments and responses (Stich) --- 25minutes
- 7) General discussion --- 30 minutes