



The Australasian Association of Philosophy and Heart of Philosophy invite you to join some of Australia's leading philosophers as they showcase some cutting edge philosophical debates. Hear internationally acclaimed speakers talk about how science, psychology and ethical dilemmas challenge our ideas about the nature of reality and ourselves. Discover the links between past philosophical ideas and the shifting edge of reason today. This event is organized in conjunction with NGV Public Programs and supported by CAE.

**Date:** Sunday 18 March & Sunday 25 March, 2007 from 1 - 5 pm each day  
**Venue:** National Gallery Victoria, 180 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne  
**Tickets:** \$170 Series Pass, \$85 per day General Admission; \$150 Series Pass, \$75 per day NGV, AAP, Heart of Philosophy members; \$170 Series Pass (*Tickets include lecture, afternoon tea, and two discussion groups.*)  
**Bookings:** Phone NGV on (+61 3) 8662 1555

## DAY ONE: QUESTIONS OF REALITY AND DISCUSSIONS OF THE SELF

### LECTURE:

#### **What Is and What Is Not: an Introduction to Metaphysics**

*Professor Mark Colyvan.* Metaphysics is the study of the ultimate nature of reality, and aims to establish what does and what does not exist. This lecture will consider some of the critical metaphysical questions throughout history as well as some contemporary challenges facing philosophers today.

Mark Colyvan is a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Sydney and has held visiting appointments at several US universities. His main research interests are in the philosophy of mathematics, philosophy of science, philosophy of logic, decision theory and metaphysics.

**DISCUSSION TOPICS:** *Choose two from following selection. Sessions will be repeated throughout the afternoon, enabling participants to attend any two discussions.*

#### **Asian Philosophy and the Notion of Emptiness**

*Professor Graham Priest.* A central idea of (Mahayana) Buddhist philosophy is that everything is empty. What does this mean? Why should one suppose it to be true? And what important consequences does it have? Such questions are now posing a challenge to the traditional Western thought, and we will discuss these matters.

Graham Priest is internationally respected and holds the Boyce Gibson Chair of Philosophy at the University of Melbourne and the Arché Professorial Fellow at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. He is Chair of Council of the Australasian Association of Philosophy and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities.

#### **Is God really dead?**

*Professor Greg Restall.* Why God? Belief in God isn't dead – but it is a bone of contention in today's world. Does believing in God make you intolerant and judgmental? Or is faith a matter of avoiding questions that are there to be answered? We will explore the point of believing in God in a world where people disagree.

Greg Restall is an Associate Professor and Philosopher from the University of Melbourne. His interests include logic and the philosophy of religion.

#### **What is reality? Lessons from The Matrix**

*Professor David Chalmers.* Are we living in a Matrix? And if so, is the external world an illusion? Philosophers like Descartes say yes — if we are in a Matrix, then the ordinary objects that we seem to see do not exist. Professor Chalmers will suggest another way to look at the Matrix. On this view, the Matrix is not an illusion. It is an alternative sort of reality.

David Chalmers is President of the Australasian Association of Philosophy, ARC Federation Fellow, and Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Centre for Consciousness at the Australian National University. His article "The Matrix as Metaphysics" can be found on the official *The Matrix* website, and he is interviewed about philosophical and scientific issues related to the movie in the recent DVD box set.

#### **Am I me tomorrow?**

*Dr. Caroline West.* Who are you? What makes for your continued existence through time, and what is your relationship to the thing we call your body? Is it possible or even coherent to look forward to an afterlife? And what do we value in our continued existence? We will explore and evaluate the answers given by some major thinkers, from both ancient and modern, and eastern and western traditions.

Caroline West is a Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Sydney. Her main areas of teaching and research interests are in metaphysics (especially issues of identity, persistence and personal identity), moral philosophy (meta-ethics, normative ethics and applied ethics), political philosophy and feminist philosophy.