

Lectures for The 2015 Wendy-Huang Visiting Fellowship
The program for Logic, Mind, and Methodology (LMM)
Department of Philosophy, National Taiwan University

Modality in Wittgenstein, Carnap and Quine

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- Lecture 1. **'The *Tractatus* and the truth-conditional theory of meaning'**
2 Nov.(Mon.) 15:30p.m.
- Lecture 2. **'Meaning and modality in the *Tractatus*'**
6 Nov. (Fri.) 15:30p.m.
- Lecture 3. **'Carnap and Quine on Analyticity'**
9 Nov. (Mon) 15:30 p.m.
- Lecture 4. **'Carnap and Quine on de re quantification'**
11 November (Wednesday) 15:30 p.m.

Keynote speech for The 2nd Taiwan Metaphysics Colloquium (TMC-2015):
(13 November 2015, 09:00-10:30 a.m.)

'I am a symbol man—A. N. Prior and Ordinary Language Philosophy'

Abstract

The first of the four lectures will consider Wittgenstein's '*Tractatus Logico-philosophicus*', as perhaps the first work to present an explicit articulation of the truth-conditional theory of meaning. The second lecture will consider how that theory can be applied to natural language, and will examine the theory of modality which can be extracted from it. The third lecture will look at how the picture of logical necessity which emerges from the truth-conditional theory of meaning in the *Tractatus* influenced Carnap and led him to develop a modal logic, while the final lecture will examine the debate between Quine and Carnap on the semantics of modal predicate logic. The lectures will be intended to be not only for logicians, but also to be talks which can be followed by anyone with an interest in theories of meaning and modality.

Abstract of the keynote speech at TMC-2015:

'I am a symbol man'

A.N. Prior was a logician during the heyday of 'ordinary language philosophy'. He describes himself by saying that he is "a symbol-man rather than an ordinary speech man", and indeed he is remembered as one of the few philosophers at the time who were interested in applying logic to philosophy. Nevertheless, he was invited (while still Professor of Philosophy at Canterbury University College, in Christchurch, New Zealand) to visit Oxford and deliver the 1956 John Locke lectures. He later moved to Britain, and ended his career as a Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford. So in opposing Prior to the ordinary language philosophy we have to be careful; and this talk will look at the respects in which Prior really was, at least in spirit, an ordinary language philosopher, though he didn't do his philosophy exclusively in ordinary language. He often did it with the aid of formulae of formal logic. Despite this, an examination of the way in which he did philosophy can provide enlightenment on what philosophers of the period, particularly in England, took themselves to be doing. The talk will concentrate principally on Prior's book 'Objects of Thought', in which he sets out his views on the semantics of propositional attitude sentences, with a view to shewing how much ordinary language philosophy permeates his work.

[A.N. Prior was Professor Cresswell's PhD supervisor at the University of Manchester from 1961-1963.]