

Dr Hannah Marije Altorf

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Philosophy and Rhetoric: Retelling the Old Story



LAST-MINUTE CHANGES TO THE POLITICIAN'S SPEECH



TOM GAULD

29th September 2016

5.15-6.45pm

followed by a drinks reception

Senior Common Room
St Mary's University
Twickenham

Abstract

The recent European referendum and the upcoming elections in the United States have drawn our attention again to the ancient art of rhetoric. Personality, imagery and emotions have proven to be forceful tools of persuasion, often more forceful than argument and fact. Thus, the recent events alone warrant the theme of this year's series of Royal Institute of Philosophy lectures at St Mary's University: Philosophy and Rhetoric. Yet, the series hopes to move beyond the old quarrel, in which philosophers dismiss rhetoricians as dangerous and misleading and rhetoricians, in turn, consider philosophers immature. This first lecture in this new series will reflect on some of the ways in which philosophy and rhetoric may interact.

About the Speaker

Dr Hannah Marije Altorf is Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at St Mary's University, where she was Programme Director for eight years. She has published extensively on dialogue. Most recently she edited a special issue on the Art of Dialogue for *Arts and Humanities in Higher Education* (forthcoming 2016). She also published on the philosophical imaginary and on Iris Murdoch (*The Art of Imagining*, Continuum 2008). Together with Mariëtte Willemssen, she translated Murdoch's *The Sovereignty of Good* into Dutch (*Over God en het Goede*, Boom 2003). She regularly facilitates Socratic dialogues in the UK as well as in Germany for the Philosophisch-Politische Akademie (PPA).

Registration

All lectures are free and open to the public without registration. Lectures start at 5.15pm and last for 50 minutes, with 40 minutes for questions. This is then followed by a wine reception.

Venue

Senior Common Room, St Mary's University,
Waldegrave Road, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham TW1 4SX
Directions to the University can be found at:
www.stmarys.ac.uk/contact

Information about previous lectures can be found at:
<https://stmarysphilosophy.wordpress.com>

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