

Bigg Books and the Newcastle Philosophy Society Present

Philosophy in the Making

A bi-annual event showcasing the talent of a new generation of philosophers

Saturday 19th May 2018

Philosophical Materialism: Andrés Saenz De Sicilia

Morning

Workshop: Philosophical Materialism Today

This workshop will explore the status of philosophical materialism today by analysing the various competing claims made on the title of materialism, from Marxism to philosophy of mind to 'new' or 'speculative' materialisms. What does it mean to be a 'materialist' today? And how might we decide between the incompatible and opposed positions that identify themselves under this banner?

Time: 10.30am to 12.30pm

Venue: Newcastle Arts Centre, 67 Westgate Rd, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1SG

Cost: Free

This workshop is for people with some philosophical experience and places are very limited. If you would like to attend, please email: info@biggbooks.co.uk

Afternoon

Talk: What is Materialism?

Classical materialism begins as the claim that reality is made, first and foremost, of 'matter', in opposition to the idealist position that reality is, first and foremost, 'ideal'. Yet, this is something that has been challenged and complicated by developments both in modern philosophy and physics. In its place a variety of 'new' philosophical materialisms have attempted to outline alternative ways of thinking about reality that challenge the opposition between ideas and matter and even, in some cases, break away from the idea of matter as such. This talk will outline some of these approaches and consider their implications for understanding the world we live in as well as our place within it.

Time: 2pm to 4pm

Venue: St John the Baptist Church Hall, Grainger St. (corner of Grainger St./Westgate Rd), NE1 5JG

Cost: A contribution of £2 is requested, for those attendees who can afford it, to cover the room hire costs.

This talk is open to all members of the public, and no philosophical experience is expected.

Andrés Saenz De Sicilia is a visiting lecturer in philosophy at the University of Roehampton and Central Saint Martins as well as tutor at University College London. He completed his PhD at the Centre for Research in Modern European Philosophy (CRMEP), Kingston University, and has published articles in *Radical Philosophy* and *Language Sciences*. His first book is due out next year.

Please be aware that attendance of this event may significantly curtail your viewing of the Royal wedding.