

PRESS RELEASE 7-6-12

Leading Philosophers Arrive in Crete to Debate Consciousness

Like so many sections of Greek society, Greek academia is experiencing hard times, with funding cuts, loss of researchers, and overworked and underpaid staff. Yet there are still some bright spots, and one occurs this week in Crete, where leading researchers from around the world will gather for a conference on cutting-edge issues in the philosophy of mind.

The conference, titled 'Phenomenality and Intentionality', is organized by Dr Keith Frankish and Dr Maria Venieri, and it is sponsored by the Brain and Mind Programme of the Universities of Crete and Athens and by the Department of Philosophy and Social Studies at the University of Crete.

The topic is consciousness, and participants will be debating the nature and function of this most important yet mysterious feature of the human mind. The central philosophical disagreement in this area is between physicalist theorists, who believe that consciousness can be explained in terms of physical processes in the brain, and dualists, who deny this. The conference will bring together some of the leading philosophers on both sides.

Representatives of the physicalist position will include Professor Nick Humphrey of the University of Cambridge and Professor Michael Tye of the University of Texas, while the dualist side will be represented by, among others, Professor David Chalmers of the Australian National University (famous for his 1996 book *The Conscious Mind*) and Professor Howard Robinson of the Central European University in Budapest.

Other speakers will be travelling to Crete from the US, UK, and Cyprus, and there will also be talks by academics from the University of Crete and the University of Athens.

The organizers are delighted that so many world-class academics have been prepared to make the journey to Greece, especially during the current crisis, and they are confident the event will help to stimulate the academic life of Greece and inspire a new generation of Greek philosophers. The conference runs for three days from 12 to 14 June, and it will be held in the Historical Museum of Crete in Heraklion, for whose support the organizers are warmly grateful.

Resources

Conference webpages: <http://www.keithfrankish.com/conferences/phenomenality-intentionality/>
and <http://www.fks.uoc.gr/PhenomenalityIntentionality/>

David Chalmers' homepage: <http://consc.net/chalmers/>

Nicholas Humphrey's homepage: <http://www.humphrey.org.uk/>

Michael Tye's homepage: <https://webpace.utexas.edu/tyem/www/>

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