Join Radboud Summer School 2019!

Philosophical Lessons from and for the 'Post-Truth Era'

change perspective

Radboud University
Philosophical Lessons from and for the 'Post-Truth Era'

In the aftermath of the Brexit and the election of Donald Trump, both Oxford English Dictionaries and the Gesellschaft für Deutsche Sprache declared 'post-truth' or 'postfaktisch' as Word of the Year 2016. Ever since, political, sociological, and psychological analysts have tried to explain what it means for our society as well as our personal lives that "objective facts have become less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief" (OED). Throughout this course, we will discuss the multiple facets of this 'post-truth phenomenon'.

In the first part of the course, we will critically engage with the politics of developing post-truth claims, the journalistic tools and strategies for covering such claims, and the psychological mechanisms of the public to process them. This means that we will view the 'post-truth era' as a matrix for an array of cultural phenomena.

In the second part of the course, we will explore the philosophical dimension of the 'post-truth phenomenon' - the meaning and conditions of 'truth' are, after all, traditional philosophical topics. We will consider recent philosophical accounts of truth and truthfulness. On this basis, we will map the differences and conflicts between the most influential modern and postmodern notions of truth. Finally, it will enable us to formulate responses to the problematic features of the 'post-truth attitude'.

After this course you are able to
- Identify the causes and implications of our current 'post-truth era'
- Comprehend the broader context of recent phenomena like fake news or filter bubbles
- Distinguish several philosophical and mainstream conceptions of 'truth' and 'truthfulness'
- Formulate responses to the problematic features of the 'post-truth attitude'

Number of EC
2 ECTS credits

Course leader
Simon Truwant, Postdoctoral Researcher FWO Institute of Philosophy
KU Leuven
Leuven, Belgium
**Admission document**
Motivation letter

**Entry level**
Advanced Bachelor, Master and PhD

**This course is designed for**
Students who are interested in philosophy, political science, sociology, or cultural studies, who are concerned about recent developments in politics, journalism, and education, and wish to gain a better understanding of what truth can still mean in the 21st century

**You can find more details about this course on our website**

**Course date**
Monday 5 August - Friday 9 August 2019

**Course fee**
€ 600

**Deadline application**
1 June 2019

**Discounts**
- 10% discount for early bird applicants. The early bird deadline is 1 March 2019.
- 15% discount for students and PhD candidates from partner universities. Please note that these discounts can be combined if you apply before 1 March 2019.

**Apply now!**
What is the RSS experience?

**RSS is more than just a course!**

Radboud Summer School offers you a unique opportunity to meet other students and researchers from all over the world with different cultural and academic backgrounds. You will also get to know Radboud University and the city of Nijmegen. Our social programme includes a welcome reception, guest lecture and farewell drinks. And for a small fee you can join our BBQ, River Cruise on a pancake boat, a Pub Quiz, Sports Activities or a City Game.

**Want to know more?**
Have a look at what participants have said about their experience on our website!

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