



AU SPRING ETHICS WORKSHOP

Department Philosophy and History of Ideas, AU
Friday May 24, 9:30-16:30
Building 1467 / Room 616

Keynote Speaker:

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University of Oxford

Detached agency: How to go through the motions

Abstract: Suppose φ is a feasible course of behavior. How might you φ at will? Here is an obvious answer: you form the intention to φ , and then enact that intention. Ordinary intentional agency, however, is not the only mechanism through which you might φ at will. In this paper, I highlight a more circuitous mechanism, one that dispenses with the intention to φ , and hence that enables to φ by going through the motions. I call this mechanism “detached agency”. Detached agency, roughly, involves coming up with a plan designed to φ , and intending to enact that plan, while not intending to φ . Although paradoxical, detached agency, I argue, neither collapses into ordinary intentional agency, nor breaks any requirements of practical rationality. This account of detached agency illuminates under non-ideal circumstances. It explains how, when pressured to φ , we might get ourselves to φ while not intending to φ .

Additional speakers: Nicolai K. Knudsen, Lauritz Munch, Joshua Hatherley, and Asbjørn Steglich-Petersen.

Participant registration by email to Asbjørn Steglich-Petersen (filasp@cas.au.dk) – deadline May 22.

