



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA
Faculty of Humanities

Datum • Date • 30 September 2011

Die Departement Filosofie nou u vriendelik uitna 'n colloquium
The Department of Philosophy cordially invites you to a colloquium

Prof Emma Rutkamp-Bloem

Hoof: Departement Filosofie / Head: Department of Philosophy,

Universiteit van Pretoria / University of Pretoria

“On the Respectability of Retrospection in Realism / Die status van retrospeksie in realisme”

I offer a counter to arguments against the retrospective aspect of selective realist accounts of science. My argument rests on a definition of truth as ‘historied reference’ which suggests that we cannot be realists about anything except the progress affected by myriad science-reality interactions that are constantly moving on a continuum of increased ‘fitness’ determined according to empirical constraints. Moreover to reflect this movement accurately, I suggest there is a corresponding continuum, ranging from stark instrumentalism to full-blown realism, on which verdicts about the status of the knowledge conveyed by theories move.

Ek bied 'n teen-argument aan vir argumente teen die retrospektiewe aspek van selektiewe realismeweerwag van die wetenskap. My argument berus op 'n definisie van waarheid as ‘gehistoriseerde verwysing’ wat impliseer dat ons realiste kan wees slegs oor die vooruitgang bewerk deur veelvuldige wetenskap-werklikheidinteraksies wat voortdurend beweeg op 'n kontinuum van toenemende ‘geskiktheid’ wat bepaal word aan die hand van empiriese beperkings. Om hierdie beweging akkuraat te reflekteer, voeg ek hierby dat daar 'n korresponderende kontinuum is wat strek van strak instrumentalisme tot volle realisme, waarop uitsprake oor die status van teoretiese kennis beweeg.

Plek/Venue : Geesteswetenskappe Gebou 20-14 / Human Sciences Building 20-14
Datum/Date : Vrydag/Friday 30 September 2011 / 30 September 2011
Tyd/Time : 10:00-11:00