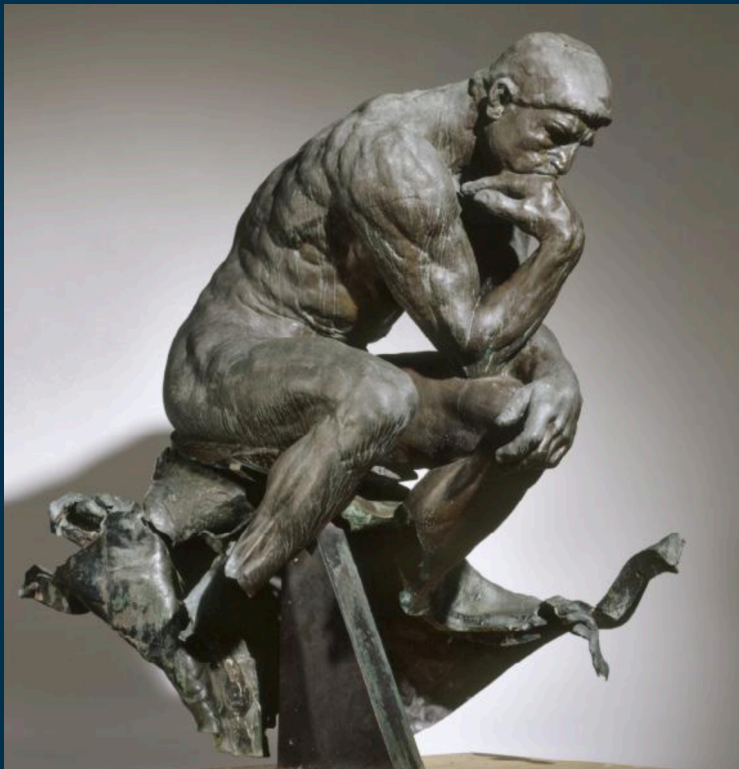

Department of Philosophy Speaker Series

Grounding, Dependence, and Identity

Ryan A. Olsen

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Intuitively, the fundamental facts ground—or give rise to—all the facts about any non-fundamental thing, like Elle the elephant. If so, that includes the fact that Elle is self-identical. How exactly are such identity facts grounded? One finds many proposals in the literature, e.g. involving qualitative or mereological facts. But I argue that many of these proposals fall prey to the same problem, one stemming grounding's relation to dependence. Specifically, grounding and dependence are related by the following principle: grounds never depend on what they ground. I argue that many proposed grounds of Elle's self-identity actually depend on that identity fact. If so, then given the principle, Elle's self-identity cannot be grounded in the proposed facts. And that motivates the search for alternative accounts of what grounds identity facts.



Friday, March 31

4:00 p.m.

Seminar Room 280F

Inamori International Center for
Ethics and Excellence

Tinkham Veale University Center



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