**Conference – The Nature of Desire.**

**University of Geneva, June 26th-28th 2012.**

As a matter of fact, we desire lots of things. But what are desires? Despite the standard mention of desires in different contemporary debates, the question of the *nature* of desire is rarely addressed. The aim of this conference is to put the issue of the nature of desire in its right place.

In the recent literature, several accounts of desires have been defended. For some, values are essential to understand desires. For others, the relation desires bear to motivation and action is essential to them. Alternatively, several accounts construe desires as essentially related to norms. Finally, for some, the key for understanding desires lies, respectively, in rewards or in needs.

The conference will discuss these different views of desires by addressing questions of the following sort. Are desires essentially experiences as of the good? Are they essentially dispositions to act? Do they involve a specific mode under which content is represented? What is the relation between the nature of desire and their peculiar direction of fit? How are we to make sense of the normativity of desires? Are there Moore’s Paradoxes for desires and what do they reveal about desires?

**Invited Speakers (provisional program)**

Daniel Friedrich (Humboldt Universität Berlin)

Alex Gregory (University of Reading)

Federico Lauria (University of Geneva)

Ronald DeSousa (University of Toronto)

Graham Oddie (University of Colorado Boulder)

Timothy Schroeder (Ohio State University)

Fred Schueler (University of Delaware)

David Wall (University of Northampton)

The conference is organized by the research group *Thumos* and will take place from June 26th to June 28th at the University of Geneva.

Please contact [Federico.Lauria@unige.ch](mailto:Federico.Lauria@unige.ch) or [Julien.Deonna@unige.ch](mailto:Julien.Deonna@unige.ch) for any question.

<http://www.unige.ch/lettres/philo/thumos/Thumos/Home.html>