

# Swiss Center for Affective Sciences

## NCCR - CISA SEMINARS

Wednesday,  
November 19<sup>th</sup>  
2014

17:00 - 18:30

### CISA Conference Room

Campus Biotech  
9, chemin des Mines  
Geneva

## How are unconscious emotions possible?

**Michael Lacewing**

(Heythrop College, University of London)

An unconscious emotion is an emotion that the subject cannot avow directly and non-inferentially. But how should we understand the possibility of such states? I shall compare some prominent theories of unconscious emotion from philosophy, psychology and psychoanalysis, to test the viability of their accounts. I shall argue that a distinctly psychodynamic conception of unconscious emotion is both necessary and cogent, but leave open the precise form that such a theory should take. The paper as a whole seeks to provide an example of the fruitfulness of interdisciplinary work in the philosophy of emotion, and urges the inclusion of psychoanalytic conceptions of the mind in that dialogue ■

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