

Minor Entities

A Philosophical Workshop in Geneva – July 8-11, 2004

The [Department of Philosophy](#) of the University of Geneva is organizing a small intensive workshop devoted to *Minor Entities*. Metaphysicians have dealt with large categories — substance, universals — and oversize issues — the nature of being, existence, necessity, causation. But there is plenty of room at the bottom for lesser categories and entities. Small or undersize problems can be interesting entry points for deep metaphysical enquiries. What is a sound? Do holes exist? Are events fact-like or object-like? Do shadows have a causal structure? What is the nature of the boundary that separates water from air — is it water, is it air? By looking into such questions we aim to explore the thesis that metaphysical concerns can be domain-specific without ceasing to be metaphysical in an important sense.

Thursday, July 8

15h to 18h Roy Sorensen (Dartmouth College) Shadows

Friday, July 9

9h30 to 12h30 Hud Hudson (Western Washington University) Boundaries
15h to 18h Dean Zimmerman (Rutgers) Simplex

Saturday, July 10

9h30 to 12h30 Jérôme Dokic (EHESS Paris) Sounds
15h to 18h Alvin Goldman (Rutgers) Events

Sunday, July 11

9h to 12h Discussion

The workshop will take place in Salle B101 (Bâtiment central) of Uni Bastions (place de l'Université) on Thursday, Friday and Sunday, and in Salle U159 of Uni Dufour (rue du Général Dufour 20) on Saturday — for directions and a map click [here](#).

Organizers: Roberto Casati (CNRS-EHESS-ENS Institut Nicod, Paris) casati_AT_ehess.fr, Kevin Mulligan (Philosophy, University of Geneva) kevin.mulligan_AT_lettres.unige.ch, Achille Varzi (Philosophy, Columbia University), achille.varzi_AT_columbia.edu.

Scientific Committee: Barry Smith (IFOMIS, Leipzig, and SUNY at Buffalo), Peter Simons (University of Leeds).

Local organizers: Kevin Mulligan (Philosophy, Geneva), Michael Esfeld (Philosophy, Lausanne), Gianfranco Soldati (Philosophy, Freiburg).



The conference is sponsored by the [IRIS project on formal concepts](#) at the University of Geneva and by the Marie Gretler-Stiftung.