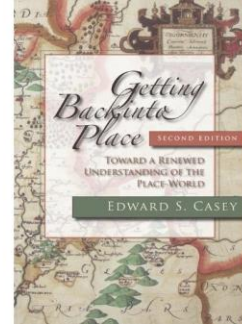


*The Concordia Philosophy Colloquium Series
Presents:*



Edward S. Casey

Distinguished Professor of Philosophy
Stony Brook University

On Not Putting Too Fine an Edge on Things

Friday October 15, 2010, 16:00-18:00

EV-11.705

Engineering, Computer Science and Visual Arts Complex
1515 St. Catherine West (corner of Guy Street)

Abstract:

Philosophers, taking their lead from natural and social scientists, pride themselves on achieving clarity and exactitude. This aim is indisputably valid and has been indisputable to the accomplishment of many of the enduring achievements in philosophy – for instance, Descartes’s *Principles of Philosophy*, Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*, Peirce’s semiotics, Russell and Whitehead’s *Principia Mathematica*. At the same time, the virtues of vagueness have been increasingly pursued ever since William James (inspired by certain strains in Peirce himself) proclaimed “the value of the vague” in his *Principles of Psychology* (1890).

Since then, others have followed suite, however, diversely: notably Edmund Husserl, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, and Timothy Williamson. In this talk, I consider the merits of the vague in philosophy by a concerted exploration of the edges of things and topics: those extremities where the exact gives place to the less than precisely designatable and discussable. I maintain that, far from being a defect or lack, the very imprecision has positive values of its own to which we should attend more closely.

All Welcome

The Colloquium Series is sponsored by the Concordia University Philosophy Department.

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