Fiction, truth and knowledge
Instructor: Maria Forsberg

The aim of this module is to introduce philosophical questions about the relationship that fiction bears to truth and knowledge, and to develop in the student an ability to argue for or against answers to the questions introduced. Among the topics that will be addressed are these: What is it to have knowledge? What is fiction, and we can say anything about what fiction is without using the concept of truth? What is true in fiction? It is often said that literature can disclose deep and interesting truths. But what does this mean, and is it really true? What epistemic risks are associated with casting factual information in narrative form?

Before the start

Students should purchase or borrow the following books:


- Matravers, Derek (2014), from *Fiction and Narrative*, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Students should also purchase copies of the following texts at the department:


The remaining material is available via Uppsala University Library.

All classes take place in room Eng/2-1022.

1. Introduction Mon 9/1 9.15-11.00

Literature:


2. What is a story? Mon 9/1 13.00-15.00

Literature:


Matravers, Derek (2014), from Fiction and Narrative, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

3. What is fiction? Tue 10/1 9.15-11.00

Literature:

Matravers, Derek (2014), from Fiction and Narrative, Oxford: Oxford University Press.


4. Truth in fiction Tue 10/1 13.00-15.00

Literature:

Matravers, Derek (2014), from Fiction and Narrative, Oxford: Oxford University Press.


5. What is knowledge? Thu 12/1 9.15-11.00

Literature:


Ichikawa Jenkins, Jonathan, ”The Analysis of Knowledge, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

6. Examination oral assignment Thu 12/1 13.00-15.00
The assignment is to be announced.

7. Knowledge from fiction and summary Fri 13/1 9.15-12.00

Literature:


Matravers, Derek (2014), from *Fiction and Narrative*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

8. Examination written assignment Fri 20/1