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Consciousness and the Limits of the Objectivist Worldview

Date : 5 March 2026 (Thursday)

Time : 16:45 – 18:15

Venue : SEK 106 & Zoom Seminar

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I will argue that no theory of consciousness can simultaneously respect four initially plausible metaphysical claims—namely ‘first-person realism’, ‘non-solipsism’, ‘non-fragmentation’, and ‘one world’—but that any three of the four claims are mutually consistent. So, theories of consciousness face a ‘quadrilemma’. Since it will be hard to achieve a consensus on which of the four claims to retain and which to give up, we arrive at a landscape of competing theories, all of which have pros and cons. I will briefly indicate which kinds of theories correspond to the four horns of the quadrilemma. Since the conjunction of ‘non-fragmentation’ and ‘one world’ are key tenets of an objectivist worldview, there is a conflict between a certain form of realism about consciousness and objectivism, assuming we do not want to embrace solipsism.

All are welcome!

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