Lingnan University 嶺南大學 香港 Hong Kong
Department of Philosophy

Philosophy Departmental Seminar

Explanations of Systemic Disadvantage: Discrimination and Social Formation

How should we understand "structural" or "systemic" injustice, such as structural racism or class exploitation? And why is this injustice so durable? One problem is that it isn't clear how to understand what social structures are, and how agents are situated in them. Of course, some forms of oppression arise from discrimination in the formation and maintenance of institutions and associations. However, in this talk, I will offer a different picture, relying on the idea that societies are complex dynamic systems affected by multiple dynamics, focusing specifically on material and semiotic dynamics. My broad aim is to provide evidence that although discrimination is part of the story of structural injustice, taking that to be the whole story leaves us without the resources we need to analyze what's going wrong in structurally unjust societies and how to change them.

Speaker: Professor Sally HASLANGER *(Massachusetts Institute of Technology)*

Venue

LKK203

Meeting ID: **983 1951 5823**
Passcode: **26167445**

Scan to join

zoom

More Info: https://www.ln.edu.hk/philoso/events
Enquiries: 26167445 / dphilo@ln.edu.hk

23 November 2026
(Monday)

4:45 – 6:15 pm
(HKT)

All are welcome!