

Post-truth – a challenge?

In honor of prof. emeritus Gunnar Skirbekk 80-years' anniversary, Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities invites all interested to the symposium

Post-truth - a challenge?

Prof Skirbekk has an extensive academic production and is still very active at the Centre and in the public debate. At the symposium, both local and international guests participate, reflecting interest areas in Skirbekk's research and his many international cooperations. We welcome you to a discussion of important questions about science and society in Gunnar Skirbekk's spirit

Established rules for public discourse have developed in directions that leave observers and commentators searching for new descriptions. "Post-truth" is one attempt to capture salient aspects of the new trend, as in the expression "post-truth politics". In this context, the prefix 'post' does not mean 'after', as in 'post hoc' or 'post factum', but has come to designate precisely the irrelevance of the specified term. Post-truth designates a situation in which 'truth' is of little or no relevance. Being selected by Oxford dictionaries as "Word of the Year" in 2016, the expression has entered into general usage only recently, tied in particular after the Brexit and the US presidential campaigns of 2016.

The SVT symposium 2017 invites distinguished scholars to discuss the concept of post truth, its uses, the historical context in which it arose, and the implications for public discourse. What phenomenon is described by it? Who is using the term? Is it a descriptive term, or rather, evaluative? What is the political and epistemic function of the phenomenon it refers to? What is its relationship to related concepts such as 'truth', 'falsehood', 'lie', 'deception' and 'propaganda'?



UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN
POSTBOKS 7800, 5020 BERGEN
55 58 00 00 / POST@UIB.NO / UIB.NO



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8th December 2017 Bergen Sjøfartsmuseum

09:00- 09:10: Welcome by Prof.Matthias Kaiser – director of the Centre of the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities

09:10 -09:30:***On This Famous Remark by Kant: “If justice perishes, then it is no longer worthwhile for men to live upon the earth”***

Shijun Tong, Professor of Philosophy, Chairman of the University Council, East China Normal University, Shanghai

09:30 -09:45: Commentary by Prof.Matthias Kaiser, University of Bergen, questions and discussion

09:45 -10:05: **Hilde Sandvik, Editor-in-Chief, Broen.xyz.**

10:05 -10:20: Commentary by Phd Ingrid Foss Ballo University of Bergen, questions and discussion

10:20 -10:40: Coffee break

10:40 -11:00: ***Public reason in an age of post-truth?***

Silje Aambø Langvatn, Phd, Researcher at the Centre for the Study of the Legitimate Roles of the Judiciary in the Global Order, University of Oslo

11:00-11:15: Commentary by Prof. Emeritus Gunnar Skirbekk, University of Bergen questions and discussion

11:15 -11:35: ***What is fake news? Is it new and what does it mean for the public political dialogue? - A short reflection***

Tarjei Skirbekk, Historian of ideas and communication advisor. Author of the book ‘How to win elections: Modern political communication’

11:35 -11:50: Commentary by Phd Helene Nilsen, University of Bergen, questions and discussion

11:50 -12:10: Prof **Ying Qi, Professor of philosophy, East China Normal University, Shanghai**

12:10 -12:25: Commentary by Prof. Jeroen P. van der Sluijs, University of Bergen, questions and discussion

12:25 -13:30: Lunch

13:30 -13:50: **Ragnhild Freng Dahle, PhD candidate, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge**

13:50 -14:05: Commentary by Assoc.prof Kjetil Rommetveit, questions and discussion

14:05 -14:25: ***Back to the primordial conception of truth in the Post-truth era***

Yu Zhenhua, Professor of philosophy, East China Normal University, Shanghai

14:25 -14:40: Commentary by Assoc.prof Rasmus Slaattelid, questions and discussion

14:40 -15:00: ***Post-truth - a change?***

Gunnar Skirbekk, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Theory of Science, University of Bergen

15:00 -15:20: Coffee break

15:20 -16:20: **General discussion - lead by Prof. Silvio Funtowicz**

Dinner for invited guests at 7.30 pm, Hotel Terminus, Zander Kaaes gate 6.