

Lecture philosophy and psychiatry:

Salience and psychosis, a misalliance?

Saturday 24th of September – 14h – 17.15h

Sint-Jacobsmarkt 43, 2000 Antwerpen

Aberrant salience is an influential conceptualisation within psychiatric research that attempts to present a unitary framework for psychosis. 'Salience' refers to motivational properties of a stimulus or in short: that which attracts sensory attention in a certain environment is what is salient. The addition 'aberrant' stands for a tendency whereby so-called irrelevant stimuli are attributed motivation salience, thereby attracting attention and supposedly influencing behavior 'improperly' (Kapur, 2003).

This conceptualisation has been highly influential in research, even to the degree that professor Jim van Os called out in 2009 to replace the notion of schizophrenia by "salience syndrome" (Van Os, 2009).

In this lecture, three speakers will from different perspectives zoom in on the concept of aberrant salience, in an attempt to create clarity on the meaning, sense and non-sense of this conceptualisation.

Livia De Picker works as a psychiatrist at UPC Duffel and has a chair in the European association of psychiatrists. Livia will speak from the biomedical aberrant salience perspective.

Rosanna Wannberg is a psychologist and doctor in philosophy. In her research on schizophrenia and disturbances in subjectivity, Rosanna builds on work from the late Wittgenstein, where action-oriented subjectivity has a central place.

Wouter Kusters is a philosopher, linguist and publicist. Wouter has written groundbreaking work, in part based on his own experiences with madness, on the links between philosophy, madness and psychotic experiences.

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