Concordia University
Arts and Science

PHILOSOPHY LECTURE SERIES

In collaboration with:

Department of Political Science

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Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

"National Culture and Epistemic Injustice"

Friday, February 28, 2013
from 3:30pm to 5:30pm
1455 de Maisonneuve West, Room: H-1220

ABSTRACT:

In her ground breaking book *Epistemic Injustice*, Miranda Fricker shows how social power relations can yield two types of injustice that an individual might suffer in her capacity as a knower: testimonial injustice, whereby an individual's testimony is wrongfully dismissed because of her membership in a particular social group; and hermeneutical injustice, whereby an individual's social experience is wrongfully misunderstood because of unequal participation in the production of collective understandings. This talk expands on Fricker's analysis by focusing on the intersection of these two types of injustice to spell out the specific type of wrong occurring in the case of certain 'national' traditions in Europe. I first argue that this case constitutes an instance of a particular type of hermeneutical injustice, which I call hermeneutical domination. I then argue that hermeneutical domination in the case under consideration constitutes racism. Finally, I consider different types of strategy to address the injustice of hermeneutical domination.

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