

St Mary's
University College
Twickenham
London

Philosophy Department

Royal Institute of Philosophy Public Lecture

What is a philosophical question?

Professor Luciano Floridi
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University of Hertfordshire and Fellow of
St Cross College, University of Oxford



Wednesday 1st February 2012, 5.15pm-6.45pm, followed by a drinks reception
Senior Common Room, St Mary's University College, Twickenham

Abstract

What makes a question a philosophical one? And what makes a philosophical question a good one? In this talk, I shall argue that good philosophical questions are ultimate, non-absolute but relational questions which remain, in principle, open to informed and rational disagreement and are not answerable empirically or mathematically. As a consequence, I shall interpret philosophy not as a form of analysis, but as conceptual design.

About the Speaker

Luciano Floridi is professor of philosophy at the University of Hertfordshire – where he holds the Research Chair in Philosophy of Information and the UNESCO Chair in Information and Computer Ethics – and Fellow of St Cross College, University of Oxford. Floridi's research concerns primarily the Philosophy of Information and Information Ethics. Other research interests include Epistemology, Philosophy of Logic, Philosophy of Technology, and the History and Philosophy of Scepticism. His two most recent books are: *The Philosophy of Information* (Oxford University Press, 2011) and *Information – A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2010). He is the only philosopher to have been elected Gauss Professor by the Academy of Sciences of Goettingen. In 2009 he was awarded the Barwise Prize by the American Philosophical Association.

Registration

All lectures are free and open to the public without registration. Lectures start at 5.15pm and last for 50 minutes, with 40 minutes for questions. This is then followed by a wine reception.

Venue

Senior Common Room, St Mary's University College, Waldegrave Road, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, TW1 4SX, UK
Directions to the University College can be found at: www.smuc.ac.uk/contact/directions.htm

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