

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY COLLOQUIUM SERIES

FEATURING JOSÉ LUIS BERMÚDEZ



BIOGRAPHY

José Luis Bermúdez's most recent book is *Understanding "I" Language and Thought* (Oxford University Press, 2017). MIT Press will be publishing *The Bodily Self: Selected Essays on Self-Consciousness* in January 2018. His other books include *The Paradox of Self-Consciousness* (MIT Press, 1995), *Thinking Without Words* (Oxford University Press, 2003), *Decision Theory and Rationality* (Oxford University Press, 2009), as well as the textbook: *Cognitive Science: An Introduction to the Science of the Mind* (3rd edition in preparation for Cambridge University Press). Dr. Bermúdez's research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the British Academy, the Templeton Foundation, the James S. McDonnell Foundation, and the Royal Society of Edinburgh. His work has been translated into 7 languages and he is one of the 100 most cited philosophers on Google Scholar.

REASONING IN GAMES: FROM "I" TO "WE"

ABSTRACT

This talk is part of an ongoing project on the role of framing in rational decision-making, exploring how and when it can be rational to allow valuation and preference to vary according to how actions and outcomes are framed. This project challenges standard models of rational decision-making in the social sciences. I discuss how framing can support team reasoning in game theory, focusing on the work of Michael Bacharach. Whereas Bacharach sees team reasoning and the "we"-frame as the products of situation-specific priming, rather than the results of rational deliberation, I aim to situate them within a broader model of frame-sensitive reasoning. I show how simultaneous sensitivity to both the "I"-frame and the "we"-frame in strategic interactions can generate rational forms of cyclical preference, and then explore options for rationally evaluating frames.

Thursday, November 30th • 3:45-5:30 • YMCA 401