

Roberto Casati

Drawing as a propositional activity

Decomposing the drawing activity into elemental items reveals the importance of top-down, propositionally structured processes. I'll investigate in particular attention modulation, the tracing of a second line on a previously traced line, and the role of tagged crossings in the making of a drawing.

Ruth Millikan

Varieties of Semantic Rules for Natural and for Intentional Signs

Discussion of a number of different kinds of semantic rules characterizing elements of different kinds of signs: natural signs, linguistic signs, pictorial or diagrammatic signs, animal communication signs. Of particular interest are selfsigning elements, including placement and time, which although extremely common, have not, I think, been noticed before by philosophers.

Kristóf Nyíri (Skype talk)

Children's Drawings and Common-Sense Realism

The ongoing task of common-sense philosophy, as I understand it, is to integrate the established results of science and scholarship into everyday thinking, that is, into common sense as historically evolving. Though changing over time, common sense is invariably realist, with common-sense philosophy, too, necessarily tending towards realism. Now contemporary common sense faces a problem when it comes to children's drawings. In drawings, common sense today expects the rules of naturalism and linear perspective to obtain. Children's drawings of course do not conform to those rules. Hence common sense, as also most of the earlier literature on the subject, regards children's drawings as deficient. By contrast, more recent literature, mainly under the influence of Rudolf Arnheim, emphasizes the creativity of children's drawings, claiming, too, that realism has many varieties, and that children's drawings, just like modern art and non-Western art, can display a degree of realism which drawings observing the rules of linear perspective often cannot. However, one can still argue that naturalism and linear perspective are essential cognitive and cultural achievements, and also that the much-contested seeing/knowing opposition (so ably analyzed by Sully in the early days) is still relevant to the understanding of the oddity of children's drawings. It appears that here it would be premature, for contemporary common-sense realism, to radically challenge the outlook of old-fashioned common sense.

Barry Smith

The Ontology of the Organigram

An organigram is a graph-theoretic structure consisting of nodes and edges. The nodes standardly represent three sorts of entities: divisions within the organization, offices of the persons who head these divisions, and the current holders of such offices. The edges represent relations of sub- and superordination between the entities represented by the nodes. Where such a relation obtains the subordinate has obligations based upon his consent to perform certain duties as directed and controlled by the superordinate. We will evaluate the hypothesis that an organization is itself a graph-theoretic structure that is (or is capable of being) represented by an organigram.