

The Minerva Lecture – Philosophy and the good life

**Lecturer Prof Angela Hobbs, Professor of Public Understanding of Philosophy,
University of Sheffield**



7.30 p.m 2nd December, 2015
Main Lecture Theatre, (3.25)
John Anderson Building
University of Strathclyde

Biography

Angie is Professor of the Public Understanding of Philosophy at the University of Sheffield. Her chief interests are in ancient philosophy and ethics and she has published widely in these areas. She contributes regularly to radio and TV programmes, newspaper articles and philosophy websites. She speaks all over the world and has been the guest on both *Desert Island Discs* and *Private Passions*. In January 2016 she will be discussing the role that philosophy can play in addressing current global challenges at the World Economic Forum at Davos.

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Abstract

Can the formal and informal study of philosophy help us lead more fulfilling individual and communal lives? In this talk Angie Hobbs considers in particular whether ancient Greek notions of an ethics of flourishing can be helpfully updated for the 21st century. She looks at the implications of such an ethics for relations between ethics and aesthetics, and ethics and politics, and asks whether the historical dangers of such an ethical approach – in particular the way it has led to authoritarianism and paternalism (and also maternalism in Plato's case!) – can be addressed. The talk concludes by suggesting that a reworked version of an ethics of flourishing can be of great value for addressing a wide range of current challenges, such as the ethics of money and banking; inter-faith and faith-secular dialogue; education; and definitions of mental and physical health.

<http://www.royalphil.org>