



218th Lecture Series 7.30pm - 19 February 2020



Prof Fiona Macpherson

Is Virtual Reality Experience Veridical, Illusory or Hallucinatory Experience?

ABSTRACT

Does virtual reality involve illusory or hallucinatory experience of things that are not present, or does it involve veridical experience of virtual objects? I answer this question by outlining a new theory of illusion and hallucination and applying it to virtual reality experience. In so doing, I pay attention to a feature of virtual reality experience unduly neglected in the philosophical literature: how it is actually produced. The result is a new account of the nature of virtual reality experience that shows that it is far more complex than the extant accounts envision. It involves veridical, illusory and hallucinatory elements related in a multifaceted fashion. Developing this account of the experience had in virtual reality reveals an important feature of indirect perception and new forms of illusion and hallucination that any successful theory of perception and perceptual experience must be able to accommodate.

BIOGRAPHY

Fiona Macpherson, FRSE, MAE, is Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Centre for the Study of Perceptual Experience at the University of Glasgow. She is president of the British Philosophical Association, sits on the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the UKRI Creative Industries Advisory Group, and is a trustee of the Kennedy Memorial Trust.

LINKS

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiona_Macpherson

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/humanities/staff/fionamacpherson/>

**All lectures take place in Lecture Theatre K3.25, John Anderson Building,
University of Strathclyde, Rottenrow East, Glasgow G4 0NG.**

Non-members welcome

The John Anderson Building is in the pedestrianised area between Rottenrow and Rottenrow East. Free car parking is available behind the building. From High Street enter Rottenrow East at the Barony.
Refreshments will be served at 9.00pm.