

Torsdag den 22. maj kl. 13-16, 1467/515

*Perception and Shared Experience*

Abstract:

According to an influential view on conscious experience, it should not really be possible for us to have shared experiences at all, any more than I could have a toothache in your tooth. This is a direct consequence of the (originally Cartesian) idea that experiences are modifications of the subject's conscious states (and possibly brain states). On the other hand, the idea of shared experiences has a central role in everyday language and, e.g., in historical research. Many philosophers of consciousness would maintain that the idea of shared experience is a misnomer and that it really means shared stimuli that (possibly) give rise to qualitatively similar conscious states in different subjects. However, I believe it is possible to turn the tables and suggest that the idea of shared experience is the more basic notion.