

Charles Taylor and Phenomenology seminar

University of Oxford Michaelmas term 2025

Faculty of Theology and Religion Fridays 12.00–13.30

Schwarzman Centre room no. 30.301A Online via Teams*

Convenor Dr Stevan Veljkovic stevan.veljkovic@theology.ox.ac.uk

To get farther with this, and bring out more what it involves, we have to venture on some phenomenology, and this is always hazardous.

—Charles Taylor, *A Secular Age*, 307

Week 1: Introduction 17th Oct

Charles Taylor, 'From Philosophical Anthropology to the Politics of Recognition: An Interview with Charles Taylor,' trans. Steven Rothnie, *Thesis Eleven* 52, no. 1 (1998): 103–12, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0725513698052000008>.

Charles Taylor, 'Merleau-Ponty and the Epistemological Picture,' in *The Cambridge Companion to Merleau-Ponty*, edited by Taylor Carman, 26–49 (Cambridge University Press, 2005), <https://doi.org/10.1017/CCOL0521809894.002>.

Charles Taylor, 'Ethics and Ontology,' *Journal of Philosophy* 100, no. 6 (2003): 305–320, <https://doi.org/10.5840/jphil2003100611>.

Week 2: Early writings 24th Oct

Michael Kullman and Charles Taylor, 'The Pre-Objective World,' *The Review of Metaphysics* 12, no. 1 (1958): 108–32, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/20123686>.

Charles Taylor, review of *The Primacy of Perception: And Other Essays on Phenomenological Psychology, the Philosophy of Art, History and Politics* by Maurice Merleau-Ponty and *Signs* by Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Philosophical Review* 76, no. 1 (1967): 113–117, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2182971>.

Charles Taylor, 'The Validity of Transcendental Arguments,' *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 79, no. 1 (1979): 151–66, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4544939>.

Week 3: Middle writings – Phenomenology and 'the background' 31st Oct

Charles Taylor, 'Engaged Agency and Background in Heidegger,' in *The Cambridge Companion to Heidegger*, edited by Charles B. Guignon, 202–21 (Cambridge University Press, 2006), <https://doi.org/10.1017/ccol0521821363.008>.

Charles Taylor, 'The Self in Moral Space,' 'Ethics of Inarticulacy' and Moral Sources,' chap. 2, 3 and 4 in *Sources of the Self* (Harvard University Press, 1992).

* Join [here](#), or use meeting id 370 614 696 731 8 and passcode pq2qo6jk.

Charles Taylor and Phenomenology seminar

University of Oxford Michaelmas term 2025

Faculty of Theology and Religion Fridays 12.00–13.30

Schwarzman Centre room no. 30.301A Online via Teams

Week 4: Theory and method in *A Secular Age* I – The modern social imaginary 7th Nov

Ulf Bohmann and Darío Montero, 'History, Critique, Social Change and Democracy: An Interview with Charles Taylor,' *Constellations* 21, no. 1 (2014): 3–15, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8675.12069>.

Charles Taylor, 'The Modern Moral Order,' 'What Is a "Social Imaginary"?' and 'The Specter of Idealism,' chap. 1, 2 and 3 in *Modern Social Imaginaries* (Duke University Press, 2004), <https://doi.org/10.1215/9780822385806>.

Supplementary reading

Charles Taylor, 'Our Victorian Contemporaries,' and 'Visions of the Post-Romantic Age,' chap. 22 and 23 in *Sources of the Self* (Harvard University Press, 1992).

Week 5: Theory and method in *A Secular Age* II – The immanent frame 14th Nov

Charles Taylor, 'The Immanent Frame,' chap. 15 in *A Secular Age* (Harvard University Press, 2007), <https://doi.org/10.4159/9780674044289-007>.

Charles Taylor, 'Reply [to special issue commentators],' *Thesis Eleven*, no. 99 (2009): 93–104, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0725513609345378>.

Week 6: Taylor's epistemological realism 21st Nov

Hubert Dreyfus and Charles Taylor, 'Escaping the Picture' and 'Checking Beliefs,' chap. 2 and 3 of *Retrieving Realism* (Harvard University Press, 2015), <https://doi.org/10.4159/9780674287136>.

Charles Taylor, 'Retrieving Realism,' in *Mind, Reason, and Being-in-the-World: The McDowell-Dreyfus Debate*, edited by Joseph K. Schear, 68–101 (Routledge, 2013), <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203076316-6>.

Week 7: Phenomenology and disenchantment 28th Nov

Michiel Meijer and Charles Taylor, 'What Is Reenchantment? An Interview with Charles Taylor,' in *The Philosophy of Reenchantment*, edited by Michiel Meijer and Herbert De Vriese, 17–37 (Routledge, 2020), <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780367823443>.

Charles Taylor, 'Disenchantment-Reenchantment,' in *Dilemmas and Connections* (Harvard University Press, 2011).

Charles Taylor and Phenomenology seminar

University of Oxford Michaelmas term 2025

Faculty of Theology and Religion Fridays 12.00–13.30

Schwarzman Centre room no. 30.301A Online via Teams

Week 8: Phenomenology and reenchantment 5th Dec

Charles Taylor, 'Epistemic Retreat and the New Centrality of Time,' chap. 9 in *Cosmic Connections: Poetry in the Age of Disenchantment* (Harvard University Press, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.4159/9780674297074-010>.

Charles Taylor, 'Brandom's Hegel,' in *Reading Brandom: On 'A Spirit of Trust'*, edited by Gilles Bouché, 198–207 (Routledge, 2020), <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003001942-14>.

Further reading

Martin Heidegger, 'The Question Concerning Technology,' in *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*, translated and with an introduction by William Lovitt (Harper Perennial, 2013).

Stephen Mulhall, 'Self-Interpreting Animals,' review of *Cosmic Connections: Poetry in the Age of Disenchantment* by Charles Taylor, *London Review of Books*, 9th October, 2025, <https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v47/n18/stephen-mulhall/self-interpreting-animals>.

Charles Taylor, 'Foucault on Freedom and Truth,' chapter 6 in *Philosophy and the Human Sciences*, vol. 2 of *Philosophical Papers* (Cambridge University Press, 1985), <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139173490.007>.

Yves Winter, 'Are Social Imaginaries Immune to Ideology Critique?' *Constellations* 32, no. 2 (2025): 255–63, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8675.12784>.

Mailing list – taylor-phenomenology@mail-list.ox.ac.uk

To join, write stevan.veljkovic@theology.ox.ac.uk,
or visit <https://web.maillist.ox.ac.uk/ox/help>.