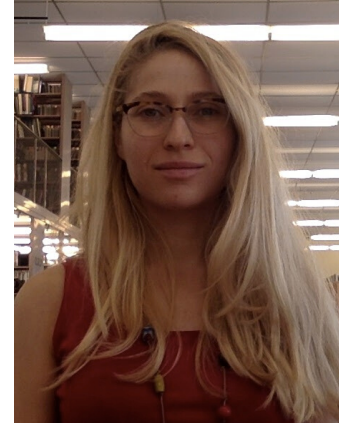


DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY PRESENTS

ALLISON KOSLOW

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

"GOING ON IN THE  
SAME WAY"



*DATE: Friday, Feb. 28th, 2020*

*TIME: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM*

*EVENT LOCATION: HIB 55 Seminar Room*

Do revolutionary accounts of what women are, or, what our concept WOMAN should be, change the subject from women to something else? I argue they do not, at least not always. The usages of “woman” philosophers propose have analogues in ordinary discourse that figure in a family of puzzles about diachronic synonymy. Given a standard picture of meaning, an expression’s truth conditions are essential to it. The main obstacle to continuity of subject appears to be a kind of contingency in how we go on with a term. So, for instance, it might seem that if we could have properly withheld “phone” from cellphones when first invented, “phone” has since changed its meaning. I argue that, seen aright, sometimes there is more than one way to go on in the same way. The meaning of “woman” does not settle how we are to go on with it, because there is no absolute fact of the matter about what that is. But, however we go on with it, in hindsight, will be going on in the same way.

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