



Department of Philosophy Colloquium

Achille Varzi
(Columbia University)



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3 pm - 5 pm



HIB 55

Sartrean Experiences and Absence Perception

One may wonder: Did Sartre really see the absence of his friend Pierre when he arrived late for their appointment at the café? Why didn't Sartre see the absence of other people who were not there? Why did other people who were there not see the absence of Pierre? Did Sartre perhaps only see that Pierre was absent? Did he merely fail to see Pierre? I wondered about these questions, too. Now I think I have an answer. And the answer is that we need not worry. Pierre simply had an absence perception.

BIO

Achille Varzi is the John Dewey Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University. Professor Varzi joined the Department in 1995. From 1989-1995 he was a research scientist at the Italian Institute for Scientific and Technological Research in Trento (Italy). His main teaching and research interests are in logic, formal semantics, and metaphysics. He is presently working on a book on mereology and a series of mini-books of philosophy for children. He is an editor of the *Journal of Philosophy* and consulting editor for various other publications.