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COLLOQUIUM

Philosophy of language: what we have learned in the last 120 years

Prof JP Smit (Stellenbosch University)

DATE: Monday, 25 August 2025 | 16h00–17h00 SAST

VENUES:

- **Stellenbosch University:** Neelsie Cinema
- **University of the Witwatersrand:** Room P215, 2nd Floor, Physics Building
- **North-West University:** Seminar room K310, Physics building G5
- **Online**

--- A recording of the talk will be published on the NITheCS YouTube channel afterwards ---

ABSTRACT

Philosophy of language (and philosophical logic) study questions concerning how language relates to reality. While most matters discussed in the field are heavily contested, there are lessons that have been learned since Bertrand Russell published 'On Denoting' in 1905. In this talk I explain what I take the most important of these lessons to be. I will discuss the relation between what we say and what we mean, the role of context in communication and how the external world affects meaning.

BIOGRAPHY

JP Smit is an Associate Professor in Philosophy at Stellenbosch University. His main research interests are philosophy of language and social ontology.



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