Merleau-Ponty’s *Phenomenology of Perception*

Helen Fielding

This course will focus on the 2012 translation of Maurice Merleau-Ponty’s important mid-twentieth century work on perception. We will approach the work from two perspectives 1) the insights it provides for contemporary research in philosophy of mind and neuroscience 2) the existential framework it provides that shows how perception cannot be reduced to either empiricism or intellectualism. Drawing on the research of his day in psychology and neurology, Merleau-Ponty explores embodied perception, and embodied experience and describes how perception belongs to a meaningful gestalt of subject and world. In the course we will address the ways in which he takes up such themes as temporality, spatiality, the senses including synesthesia, motility and freedom.