



Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, together with the Center for the Cognitive Sciences and Semantics, University of Latvia invites you and members of your organization to a public lecture

"Vagueness Facilitates Search"

by Dr. Kees van Deemter, King's College, University of Aberdeen, UK and
as moderator Dr. Jurgis Šķilters from the Center for Cognitive Sciences and Semantics,
University of Latvia, Latvia.

The lecture will take place on **January 29, 13:00 – 14:30**,
in the George Soros Auditorium of the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga,
Strelnieku iela 4a.

Please register for the lecture on the web page
www.sseriga.edu.lv/vagueness_facilitates_search

The abstract of the lecture:

This talk, which is primarily intended for cognitive scientists (broadly conceived) interested in vagueness, addresses a question that has started to be debated by game theorists and others, namely "Why language is vague".

After a general introduction, in which some recently proposed answers to this question are discussed, I will propose a novel answer to this question, which complements other answers suggested in the literature.

The new answer claims that vagueness can facilitate search, particularly in quasi-continuous domains (such as physical size, color, or temperature), given that different speakers are likely to attach subtly different meanings to words (such as "tall", "blue", or "hot") defined over such domains.

About the speaker:

Dr. Kees van Deemter is one of the leading semanticists and computational linguists working on vagueness and ambiguity. He has made significant contributions in Artificial Intelligence, Computational Linguistics, Semantics, Multimodality research and has contributed to several significant international projects on natural language generation. He is author of numerous crucial studies in the mentioned fields.

His monograph *Not Exactly: In Praise of Vagueness* is appearing January 2010 at the Oxford University Press.

Dr. van Deemter has worked at Philips Research Laboratories (Netherlands), Stanford University (USA), University of Brighton (UK), and is currently at the University of Aberdeen (UK).