



ODDĚLENÍ LOGIKY / FILOSOFICKÝ ÚSTAV AV ČR
DEPARTMENT OF LOGIC / INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY CAS



SEMINÁŘ LOGIKY SEMINAR OF LOGIC

Martin Gustafsson (Åbo Akademi University)

The Illusion of Intransitive Measurement: Diamond, Kripke and Wittgenstein on the Standard Meter

In this paper, I discuss and compare Kripke's and Wittgenstein's discussions of the standard meter in *Naming and Necessity* and *Philosophical Investigations*. Starting from Cora Diamond's interpretation of Wittgenstein's argument, I spell out the consequences of the most basic feature of measuring qua practice, namely, its being a matter of repeated comparisons. I show that Kripke's notion of how the reference of "one meter" is fixed has no substantive connection with the real-life phenomenon of measurement. I also address a worry about Wittgenstein's conception: How can it leave any room for genuine progress in the development of measurement standards? I argue that the depth of Diamond's interpretation shows itself precisely in the fact that it allows us to make sense of such progress, but without invoking the sort of practice-independent reference-fixing on which Kripke's account is built.

Thursday 15/12/2022 | 14.00 CET

Meeting room („zasedačka“), Institute of Philosophy CAS, Jilská 1, Prague 1