



Spinoza's *Cogitata metaphysica*

Masterclass with Yitzhak Melamed (Johns Hopkins University)

École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, 6-9 June 2016, Site Descartes, Salle F004.

This intensive four-day masterclass will be taught by one of the most prominent Anglo-American Spinoza scholars today, Professor Yitzhak Melamed from Johns Hopkins University, in collaboration with Mogens Lærke, researcher at the CNRS (IHRIM, UMR 5317, ENS de Lyon). The class will be entirely dedicated to the reading of Spinoza's *Cogitata metaphysica*. The *Cogitata Metaphysica*, the appendix to Spinoza's 1663 book on Descartes' *Principles of Philosophy* is a text whose precise nature is still unclear after more than 350 years of scholarship. The nature of this text and specifically the question whether it represents Spinoza's views at the time of its composition will stand at the center of this course. We will read closely the text in three languages (Latin, English, and French) and attempt to reconstruct Spinoza's arguments and the philosophical conversations exhibited in the text.

The masterclass is open to doctoral students, up to a maximum of 10. We accept applicants from both ENS de Lyon and other institutions, including abroad. The class can also be validated as a course for master students (M2) at the ENS de Lyon. Some prior knowledge of Spinoza's philosophy is desirable. Active command of the English language is indispensable.

Applicants (not applicable to M2 students) should send a one-page letter of motivation to Mogens Lærke (mogens.laerke@ens-lyon.fr) by April 1st 2016. Attendance is free, but inscription and/or acceptance of proposal is mandatory. Please note that there are no funds available to cover the costs of travel or lodging for non-local participants.