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Occupying and Imagining a Temporal Point of View

Many agree that it is possible for one to represent a spatial perspective that one does not occupy – for example, in imagination or memory. Some have tried to argue for the further claim that it is possible for it to seem to one as though one occupies a spatial perspective that one does not in fact occupy. Relatedly, some have sought to argue that substantive conditions need to be met if one is to secure the kind of occupancy of a spatial perspective that enables one to think of a place as ‘here’. Sartre’s view of dreams invites analogous questions and issues regarding temporal perspectives. Those questions and issues will be explored in this talk. Can one represent a temporal perspective that one does not occupy? Is it possible for it to seem to one as though one occupies a temporal perspective which one does not in fact occupy? If so, what does it take to occupy, and not merely represent, a temporal point of view? And in what ways might our answers to such questions be relevant to an account of what is required for thinking of a time as ‘now’?