

Wittgenstein Initiative



LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN THE GREAT WAR AND THE UNSAYABLE

LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN enlisted into the Austrian army in 1914, hoping that the experience of facing death would have a profound effect on his character. His hopes were realised. The Wittgenstein that returned home in 1919 was a different man to the one who had enlisted in 1914.

The change extended also to his philosophy. He had, as Bertrand Russell put it, transformed into a 'complete mystic'. This mysticism appears in his book, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* in the last few pages, in which he emphasises the importance of 'the unsayable'.

This talk will explore Wittgenstein's notion of the unsayable and try to place it in context, both in terms of the rest of his philosophical thinking and in terms of his life and its historical and cultural background.

RAY MONK is a British philosopher. He is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Southampton, where he has taught since 1992. He won the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize and the 1991 Duff Cooper Prize for *Ludwig Wittgenstein: The Duty of Genius*. Monk is also author of *Bertrand Russell: The Spirit of Solitude & The Ghost of Madness*. His interests lie in the philosophy of mathematics, the history of analytic philosophy, and philosophical aspects of biographical writing. His biography of Robert Oppenheimer was published in 2012.

BETHANY BELL a graduate of Oxford University, has been the BBC News correspondent in Austria since 2001.

**DIE ÖSTERREICHISCHE
AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN**
und die
WITTGENSTEIN INITIATIVE

laden Sie herzlich ein zum Podiumsgespräch

RAY MONK und **BETHANY BELL**
**LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN,
THE GREAT WAR
AND THE UNSAYABLE**

DIENSTAG, 11. NOVEMBER 2014 UM 19.00 UHR

im Festsaal der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften
1010 Wien, Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2

U.A.w.g. bis 4. November 2014
Wittgenstein Initiative Office; office@wittgenstein-initiative.com
Tel. +43 699 19238373