

WITH PHILOSOPHER

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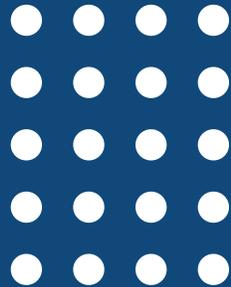


THE DEPARTMENT  
OF PHILOSOPHY  
PRESENTS:

# A Reduction of Deductive Inference

**CLOSE-HIPP 303**  
**JANUARY 13**

**03 : 30 PM -**  
**5 : 00 PM**



Abstract: What is a deductive inference? I review a few interesting features of this mental activity that have driven recent work on the topic. I then develop a reductive analysis of deductive inference into two aspects of cognition: one that surfaces when we examine how logic restricts mental representation; another connected with inquisitive states like wondering or inquiring. On the resulting view, inference becomes a way of representationally 'squeezing' an answer out of a question by crowding out a representation of the answer's alternatives. I conclude by sketching some attractions of the resulting view.

\*Reception will follow from 5pm-6pm in the philosophy department common area