

# INSTITUT FÜR PHILOSOPHIE HUMBOLDT-KOLLOQUIUM



Peter Sullivan studied at the universities of Leeds and Oxford. After teaching for several years in Oxford he moved in 1993 to a lectureship the University of Stirling. He has been Professor of Philosophy in Stirling since 2003. His main interests are in issues in the philosophy of logic raised in the work of the early analytic philosophers, and he has published essays on Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein, and Ramsey.

## Peter SULLIVAN

### RUSSELL AND RAMSEY: ON TRUTH

What is truth? The difficulty of this question, Ramsey said, 'may be judged from the fact that in the years 1904-25 Mr Bertrand Russell has adopted in succession five different solutions of it'. By contrast the essential structure of Ramsey's own approach to the question is remarkably stable. It is set down in a paper he wrote in 1921, when not yet half-way through his undergraduate degree, and persists into the unpublished book manuscript, *On Truth*, that he worked on in his last years. The talk will (1) expound this structure, (2) explain how it determines Ramsey's assessment of Russell's various theories, and (3) consider in its light the recently popular suggestion that in his late work Ramsey adopted a kind pragmatism.

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