

The Enemies of Truth

Or rather, perhaps, enemies of the search for truth. Nietzsche thought that convictions were more dangerous enemies of truth than lies. Cavafy warned against people 'with the glint of certainty in their eyes; sooner or later they talk of sacrifice'. The full spectrum from deliberate lies, through white lies, fibs and prevarications is long and complex, but our seminar is rather more concerned with suppression of the search for truth, whether by deliberately propagating falsehood, or using coercion to silence and suppress discourse. And, the link between these activities and the conviction/illusion of 'certainty'. This activity has a long history, given the interest parties have in suppressing one perception of reality and to put another in its place. These interests are many: rulers, classes, media, theologians, ideologues, corner-cutting researchers - have all had a crack at truth suppression - and who amongst us all is entirely free from the temptation, even the action, of truth bending or suppression? Come to the Brown Jug, Bath Rd, Leckhampton at 10.30 am, Wednesday 18 May 2011 to debate this issue, in a benign atmosphere that encourages ten thousand blossoms to flourish, and none to be hidden.

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