



# PHILOSOPHY IN PUBS

## Enquiry Development Series: Session 4 Critical Thinking

Philosophy in Pubs (PIPs) is part-way through an Enquiry Development Series (EDS). This series explores ways to improve how we participate in our philosophical enquiries. One of the provisional conclusions to have emerged from our earlier sessions was the wish to be well prepared to make an intellectual commitment to the democratisation of philosophy during our enquiry sessions. Therefore, the series now turns its attention to a more in-depth look at Critical Thinking. Due to the extent of this topic this element of the series will be delivered over two sessions on Wednesday evenings 20th and 27th July.

Join sessions via the Zoom links below:

20th July 2022 at 19:00 - 21:00pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84749917368?pwd=dEVMT0hVKzJ2Yk5tTC9zMlk5OHpBQT09>

Meet ID: 847 4991 7368 Passcode: HArendt

27th July 2022 at 19:00 - 21:00pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85456891475?pwd=NBGoEgINgBwOWKKUy66oFZQ8b9w9\\_N.I](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85456891475?pwd=NBGoEgINgBwOWKKUy66oFZQ8b9w9_N.I)

Meet ID: 854 5689 1475 Passcode: Pips2223!

Agenda:

1. Introduction
2. 20th July: Introduction and rationale for Critical Thinking and The Logic of Things
- 27th July: Elements of thought, intellectual standards and the personal attributes of a critical thinker.
3. Exercises to explore concepts
4. Reflection on exercises
5. Final remarks
6. Close

### EDS Research Topics

**Community philosophy:** The question of what exactly is philosophy and how does philosophy in the pub differ from that in the university?

**Educational theory:** Facts or thinking, exams or enquiring, teacher student relation. What's worth knowing? How does education effect society?

**Practical facilitation:** How often do our enquiries leave us enlightened and appreciated? How can the facilitator contribute to this? Dealing with presumptive or unclear contributions, wanderings from the topic, becoming unphilosophical etc. How valuable would facilitation practice sessions be?

**Thinking well:** Can we make up for any shortcomings in our education system and learn effective critical thinking in adulthood? How do we counter our seemingly innumerable psychological biases?

**Alternatives to PIP's Community of Enquiry method:** e.g. Bohmian dialogue: without the constraints of a topic, flowing freely as participants suspend judgment and defer to the current speaker's line of enquiry. A thought provoking alternative ...?

**Developing questions:** As we try to make sense of the world how do we identify the most promising frontiers of our current understanding and articulate them in a clear and compelling way?

**Democratising philosophy:** What is the promise of philosophy for all and why might this not be fully realised?

### Events

**Session 1:** Introduction to Enquiry Development Series followed by Community of Enquiry into 'What is Community Philosophy?'

**Session 2:** PIPs in the context of educational theory:  
i) Educational theory, their origins/history and connection to PIP's purpose.  
ii) How can we realise those ideas through the Community of Enquiry model and Facilitation?

**Session 3:** Facilitation  
i) Facilitation: building an understanding and awareness of challenges to good facilitation.  
ii) Community of Enquiry into 'What is Rationality?' (May use Steven Pinker podcast as stimulus)

**Session 4: Critical Thinking**  
**i) Elements of thought: Clarity, Precision, Accuracy, Relevance, Complexity,**  
**ii) Intellectual standards of thought, implications for facilitation.**  
**iii) The qualities of a critical thinker: fair-mindedness etc.**  
**iv) The Logic of Things**

**Session 5:** Bohmian Dialogue (Introduction)  
i) Introduction to Bohmian Dialogue (talk with questions)  
ii) Practice of Bohmian Dialogue  
iii) Reflection on the Bohmian Dialogue

**Session 6:** Developing Questions  
i) Question formulation and problematisation  
ii) Community of Enquiry into 'What does it mean to Democratise Philosophy?'

**Session 7:** Facilitation Practice 2  
i) CofE sessions (summarising, tracking) different types of stimuli.