



THE MIND SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW LECTURE

## The Logic of 'Nothing'

## from Homer to Heidegger

Alex Oliver

This public lecture explores ways and reasons to talk about nothing. The logical pitfalls in this territory will be illustrated using jokes in sources ranging from *The Odyssey* through medieval parodic sermons to *Through the Looking Glass*. But the topic is no laughing matter: Descartes, Locke, Hume and Heidegger have all been found guilty of mishandling 'nothing' by taking it to be a name of something peculiarly mysterious. Is this verdict just?



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5pm, Friday 11 October Little Hall, Sidgwick Site, Cambridge