Welcome to the new issue of the IEG newsletter. As you may notice, the format of our newsletter has improved.

We have realised that the amount of news we were trying to provide required a better kind of document than a simple ascii. This is our first Newsletter in pdf and we hope you will enjoy this new layout.

This academic year has been extremely fruitful for our research group. You will find plenty of information on publications, forthcoming papers, conference talks, workshops and further details on our members. Our group has expanded, and it now includes fifteen people. We have four new Senior Research Associates, whom I'm very pleased to introduce.

Jesse F. Hughes received his PhD in Logic, Computation and Methodology from Carnegie Mellon University in 2001. He is interested in practical philosophy and philosophy of technology and the connection between the two. He is also interest in deontic and epistemic logics.

Giuseppe Primiero received his MA in Philosophy from the Universities of Palermo (Italy) and Leiden (the Netherlands) and his PhD in Philosophy from the University of Palermo. He is a Post-Doctoral researcher at the Centre for Logic and Philosophy of Science at Ghent University (Belgium). His research focuses on logical modelling of dynamic reasoning within alternative logics (constructive, adaptive, non-monotonic and interactive), especially with respect to the epistemic description of knowledge, belief contents and the flow of information.

Mehrnoosh Sadrzadeh received her Ph.D. in Philosophy in 2006 from the University of Quebec at Montreal and the ComLab, Oxford University. She is currently EPSRC Research Fellow, at the School of Electronics and Computer Science of the University of Southampton, and Academic Visitor at the ComLab of Oxford University. Her research interests include reasoning about information flow in multi-agent systems, algebraic semantics for dynamic epistemic logic, classical and quantum security protocols and computational linguistics.

Sonja Smets is Lecturer in Philosophy at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Post-doctoral Researcher at the Flanders’ Fund for Scientific Research, Belgium. Her research areas are philosophy of quantum information, quantum logic and quantum information theory, non-classical logics, applied logics, belief revision and update.

You can find more information about our other members in the section People of our website.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express the gratitude and best wishes of the whole IEG to our past members, Gian Maria Greco and Gianluca Paronitti for their past collaborations.

All my best regards,

Luciano Fiolchi
Journals Highlights

**Journal of Philosophical Logic**
- Springer Netherlands
- ISSN 0022-3611 (Print)
- ISSN 1573-0433 (Online)

Logic, Epistemology and the Unity of Science

“aims to reconsider the question of the unity of science in light of recent developments in logic.”

Publications

**L. Floridi**

**M. Jago**
- Wittgenstein, for *Humanities Ebooks*, Philosophy Insights series, isbn 9781847600141
- Formal Logic, for *Humanities Ebooks*, Philosophy Insights series, isbn 9781847600417

**G. Primiero**

**M. Sadrzadeh**

**S. Sequoiah-Grayson**

**S. Smets**

Forthcoming

**H. Demir**
Editorial Projects

Special Issue of Knowledge, Rationality, and Action Series of Synthese
S. Sequoiah-Garison, L. Floridi
The special issue will be dedicated to the proceedings of the the First Workshop on the Philosophy of Information and Logic. More information about this workshop at page 8.

Handbook of Computer Ethics
Cambridge University Press
L. Floridi
The Handbook will provide an authoritative, philosophical survey of the fundamental themes, problems, arguments and theories, constituting the innovative field of computer ethics. It will comprise sixteen, newly-commissioned chapters, written by leading experts in the field: Alison Adam, Colin Allen, John Arquilla, Phil Brey, Terrell Ward Bynum, Stephen Clarke, Charles Ess, Luciano Floridi, Lawrence M. Hilmann, Deborah G. Johnson, James H. Moor, Carsten Bernd Stahl, Herman Tavani, May Thorseth, Jeroen van den Hoven and John Weckert.

Information
Oxford University Press
L. Floridi
This is a volume for the Very Short Introduction Series.

Philosophy of Computing and Information: 5 Questions
Automatic Press / VIP
L. Floridi
This is a collection of short interviews about the philosophy of computing and information and its broader, intellectual environment, with some of the most influential and prominent

L. Floridi
- Understanding Information Ethics, invited contribution for a special issue of APA Newsletter on Philosophy and Computers.

J. Hughes
- Why Do They Do That? (Practical Reasoning in Engineering), Handbook of Philosophy of Engineering.

M. Jago
- Resources in Epistemic Logic. One of the selected papers from the World Congress on Universal Logic.

G. Primiero
- Type-Theoretical Dynamics, in Antirealism: the Realism/Antirealism Debate in the Age of Alternative Logics, Logic Epistemology and the Unity of Science Series, Springer.

M. Sadrzadeh

S. Sequoiah-Grayson
- The Metaphilosophy of Information, Minds and Machines.

S. Smets
researchers in the area. Each contributor will answer the following 5 questions:  

1. Why were you initially drawn to computational and/or informational issues?  
2. What example(s) from your work (or the work of others) best illustrates the fruitful use of a computational and/or informational approach for foundational researches and/or applications?  
3. What is the proper role of computer science and/or information science in relation to other disciplines?  
4. What do you consider the most neglected topics and/or contributions in late 20th century studies of computation and/or information?  
5. What are the most important open problems concerning computation and/or information and what are the prospects for progress?  


Field Reports  

ECAP 2007  
120 partecipants, 3 days, 3 parallel sessions and 3 invited keynote speakers for a total of 85 presentations. The arguments presented

Conferences & Talks  

P. Allo  
- **Adaptive conditions for being informed**, poster presented at the **Formal Epistemology Workshop 2007** (Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, 31 May 3 June 2007)  
- **Formalising the ‘no information without data-representation’ principle**, **Fifth European Computing and Philosophy Conference** (Twente University, 21-23 June 2007)  
- **Noise, Equivocation, and Informational Content**, **North American Computing and Philosophy Conference** (Loyola University, Chicago, 26-28 July 2007)  
- **Invited tutorial** at **ILCLI International Workshop on Logic and Philosophy of Knowledge**, Communication and Action 2007 (Donostia, 28-30 November 2007)  

H. Demir  
- **Dretske’s Information Theoretic Approach and Epistemology**, **Keith Lehrer’s Epistemology Reading Group**, University of Arizona,(Arizona, Fall 2007).  

L. Floridi  
- **Invited speaker, Göttingen Academy of Sciences** (Göttingen, November 2007).  
- **Keynote speaker, Fifth International Workshop on Philosophy and Informatics** organized by the Department for Philosophy of the University of Kaiserslautern and the Special Interest Group on Philosophy and Informatics of the German Informatics Society (Kaiserslautern, Germany, October 1-2, 2007).  
- **Invited speaker, Engineering and Metaphysics**, Philosophy of Engineering Series, organised by The Royal Academy of Engineering (London, September 3, 2007)  
- **Invited participant to the second Science Foo Camp**, the informal conference organised by O’Reilly Media, Nature Publishing Group and Google (Googleplex, Mountain View, California, August 3-5, 2007).

M. Jago  
G. Primiero
- Belief Merging based on Adaptive Interaction, accepted talk at Workshop on Logic, Rationality and Interaction (LORI), 5th-9th August 2007, Beijing, China.
- An Adaptive Approach to Belief Change, accepted talk at 13th Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, 9th-16th August 2007, Beijing, China.
- A unified adaptive approach for merging inconsistent information (tentative title), invited talk Faculty of Philosophy, Technische Universiteit Delft, 5th November 2007 (to be confirmed).

S. Sequoiah-Grayson

M. Sadrzadeh
- Quantum Interactions, AAAI spring symposia, Stanford March 2007
- Dynamic Logic Montreal, University of Quebec at Montreal, June 2007
- Algebra and Coalgebra in Computer Science, Norway, August 2007

S. Smets

M. Taddeo
- The problems of trust: a review of the main theories of trust, paper accepted for the Fifth European Computing and Computing Conference (ECAP 2007). June 21-23 2007, University of Twente, NL.

M. Turilli
- Ethics and the Pratise of Software Design, paper accepted for the Fifth European Computing and Computing Conference (ECAP 2007). June 21-23 2007, University of Twente, NL.
- Ethical flexibility for artificial agents, paper accepted for the Seventh International Computer Ethics Conference (CEPE 2007). July 12-14 2007 University of San Diego, USA.

covered a wide range of problems: from computer science to philosophy and sociology. The quality of the presentations was good, keynote speakers clearly being the ‘hot serving’ of the conference.

The first keynote speaker, Prof. Jeroen van den Hoven, presented “The Ethics of Wideware Engineering” with a novel definition of ‘wide-ware' and ‘epistemic enslavement’.

The second keynote speaker, Prof. Giovanni Boniolo, presented his work on artificial life. He offered a critical overview of different techniques for modelling evolutionary dynamics.

The last keynote speaker, Prof. Mark Bedau, presented his work on artificial life. He offered a critical overview of different techniques for modelling evolutionary dynamics.

Logica 2007
5 days and over 50 participants, with 4 keynotes, over 30 presentations and a single track. The 21st annual symposia brought together researchers in all areas of philosophical and mathematical logic.

Keynote speaker John MacFarlane spoke on "In Defense of Degrees". He argued that we should understand vagueness-related ambivalence as a distribution of standard (uncertainty-related) degrees of belief over a rage of candidate degrees of truth.

Keynote speaker Greg Restall spoke on "Proof Theory and Meaning: On the Context of Deducibility". He illustrated options for inferentialist approaches to meaning by looking at a number of different concepts that we might define inferentially: propositional connectives, quantifiers, arithmetic and other mathematical concepts, and modal operators.

Keynote speaker Peter Schroder-

Research Projects

Reasoning about quantum information: a modal logic perspective on the foundations of quantum mechanics and its philosophical implications

Supervisors: S. Smets and Prof. J.P. Van Bendegem

The project will take place in Brussels and has been approved by the Flemish Fund for Scientific Research. The project will run for four years starting from January 2008 and it comes with an open research-position. For more information on this project please write to sonsmets (at) vub.ac.be.

News from Correspondents

K. Herold:

- A Secular Buddhist Information Ethics? To be delivered at North-American Computing and Philosophy Conference, Loyola University (Chicago, July 26-28, 2007).

J. Soraker

- The Role of Pragmatic Arguments in Computer Ethics, Ethics and Information Technology, 8(3):121-130, 2007
- Virtual Cases, Real Norms - A Rationalist, Casuistic Account of Virtual Rape. Accepted for presentation at CEPE, San Diego CA, July 12 2007.
- User-created Virtual Environments and Global Freedom of Speech. Presented at ECAP’07, Twente, June 23. Alternate version (more focused...
on ‘quality of life’) accepted for presentation at SPT, Charleston SC, July 9
2007

• Appointed as 4-year PhD Research Fellow in the International Research
  Project: Evaluating the Cultural Quality of New Media, Department of Philos-
  ophy, University of Twente, The Netherlands - funded by the Dutch Research
  Council (NWO).
• Member of 3TU.Centre for Ethics and Technology
• Local organizer, member of programme committee, track-chair for ‘IT and
  Globalization’ at ECAP’07, Twente, The Netherlands, June 21-23 2007

IEG Workshops

The IEG organises regular workshops on topics related to the philosophy of com-
puting and information. The workshops are meant to provide an opportunity for
the speakers to discuss at length and in detail their current research projects.
Each workshop lasts 2 hours, with a short break after ca. 45 min. presentation,
followed by 45 minutes discussion.
The workshops are open to all members of the IEG and to other invited partici-
pants. If you are interested in participating, please send an email to L. Floridi.
All meetings are very kindly hosted by the Oxford University e-Research Centre
(OeRC). The OeRC works with research units across the University to enable
the use and development of innovative computational and information technol-
gy in multidisciplinary collaborations. The IEG is very grateful for the support
received.
The workshops presented in this issue of the Newsletter are three.

M. Turilli

Ethics and Software Design, Thursday 31 May 2007
The seminar will be divided in three parts. First, I will introduce the concepts un-
derlining an Ethical approach to software design and the problems that such ap-
proach aims to solve. In the second part, I will illustrate a translation process from
ethical requirements to ethical protocols, outlining how formal tools can be used
in integrating ethical protocols into software development. I will close the seminar
with some considerations on the nature of the ethical systems for autonomous
computational artefacts.

S. Smets

Dynamic Conditionals as a Unifying Setting for Information Change: From
Quantum Logic to Belief Revision, Friday 8 June.
In this talk I will focus on the role of logical dynamics, and in particular the role
of dynamic-epistemic notions of “conditional”, in understanding and modeling ap-
parently very different phenomena:
(1) knowledge-updates due to inter-agent communication;
(2) belief-revising mechanisms used by agents to change their theories (or be-
liefs) when faced with new information;
(3) the qualitative behaviour of quantum systems when subjected to measure-
ments by an observing agent. A dynamic-modal approach is new in the context of
quantum logic (being first introduced in my joint work with A. Baltag on dynamic

Appointments

Mark Jago
Will start in September 2007 a one-
year lectureship in philosophy at
University of Nottingham.

Sebastian Sequoiah-Grayson
Has been appointed Lecturer in
Philosophy at St Anne’s College,
University of Oxford.
Sebastian has also been awarded
a three month Visiting Research
Fellowship to the Tilburg Center for
Logic and Philosophy of Science
(Tilburg University, The
Netherlands.

Sonja Smets
Has been granted the renewal of
her postdoctoral position in Brus-
sels, by the Flemish Fund for Scien-
tific Research. This is a three-year
position, from October 2007 to Oc-
tober 2010.
Sonja will be ‘Visiting Academic’ at
ILLC, Amsterdam, from September
2007 till March 2008 and at the
School of Informatics, Indiana Uni-
versity, from March 2008 till August
2008.
Both these positions are sponsored
by the Flemish Fund for Scientific
Research.

Scholarships

S. Sequoiah-Grayson
Has been awarded the Wingate
Scholarship by The Harold Hyam
Wingate Foundation and a Herb-
ertson Fund Project Grant by Balliol
College, University of Oxford.

M. Sadrzadeh
Has been awarded the Royal Soci-

quantum logic), but in the context of knowledge-update and belief-revision it links closely to the work of the DEL school (J. van Benthem and his collaborators in Amsterdam and Stanford, working on the Dynamic Epistemic Logic and its relations to belief revision; L. Moss, A. Baltag and their so-called BMS approach to information update; etc.).

I will present a comparative discussion of the above mentioned cases (based on my recent joint work with A. Baltag) and will show the fruitfulness of the DEL approach and of dynamic conditionals as a unifying setting for analyzing and classifying various non-classical models of information, in terms of their underlying “logical dynamics”.

**S. Bringsjord**

From Bankrupted Strong AI to Weak AI: the case for Psychometric AI, Tuesday 19 June.

“Strong” AI (SAI) is the field devoted to building computational artifacts having the same mental powers and states possessed by human persons. “Weak” AI (WAI) is the field devoted to building computational artifacts that merely *appear* to have the same mentality as human persons. In light of 20 deductive refutations of SAI published by Bringsjord (most of which are informally presented in the forthcoming “The Mirage of Mechanical Mind” (“MMM”)), WAI takes center stage. But in order to pursue WAI systematically, the artifacts produced must be tested. (One such test is the Turing test; another test is the Short Story Game; yet another is the Wechsler IQ Test; a fourth is the Lovelace Text; a fifth is Floridi’s Knowledge Game.) This presentation briefly reviews the fatal attack on SAI expressed in *MMM*, and explains the test-based approach to AI (Psychometric AI), in connection with the tests listed in the previous parenthetical.

**Graduations**

**Patrick Allo**


**Mark Jago**


**PIL Workshop**

The First Workshop on the Philosophy of Information and Logic.

*Philosophy Centre, 10 Merton Street, University of Oxford, November 3-4, 2007.*

The Workshop is an official event of the IEG, and is supported by the Faculty of Philosophy.

The workshop has three main goals. First, to bring together the world’s foremost researchers in the field, so that they may be exposed to, and interact with, the latest research issues and results. Second, to encourage further interdisciplinary work in the area, primarily between those working in philosophy and computer science departments. Third, to encourage those attendees not currently involved in research in the field to become involved in this new, exciting and fruitful area of research.

The workshop is strongly interdisciplinary in focus, as the area is situated across logic, computer science, and philosophy. It consists of a program of international and home speakers, presenting their most recent, unpublished research on the area. The panel of speakers consists of invited participants. These include Samson Abramsky, Patrick Allo, Alexandru Baltag, Johan van Benthem, Marcello D’Agostino, Luciano Floridi, Mark Jago, Edwin Mares, Mehrnoosh Sadrzadeh, Sebastian Sequoiah-Grayson, Sonja Smets, and Christopher Timpson.

The Faculty of Philosophy has continued to dedicate its resources to the Workshop, both financial and logistical.