

Universitetet i Oslo



Professor Ingerid ...Dals ...for ...arbeid innen  
sammenlignende og kontrastiv forskning på de  
indo-europeiske språkene, teoretisk matematikk  
og rasjonalistisk filosofi

Kjell Johan Sæbø

December 2, 2022

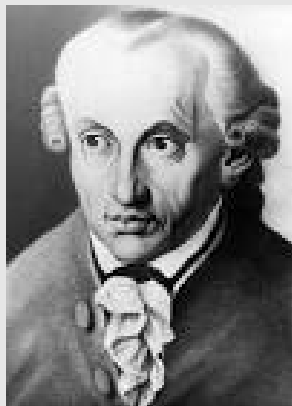
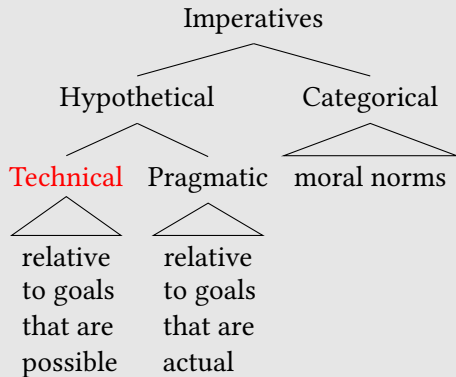
12th floor, Niels Treschows hus

# Ingerid Blanca Juell Dal (1895-1985)

- Studies of **mathematics** and **linguistics** in Heidelberg 1918 -
- Doctoral degree Hamburg 1925:  
*Lasks Kategorienlehre im Verhältnis zu Kants Philosophie*
- Doctoral degree Oslo 1930:  
*Ursprung und Verwendung der altnordischen Expletivpartikel of, um*
- Professor of Germanic philology at UiO from 1939



# Philosophy: Kant (1785, 1788)

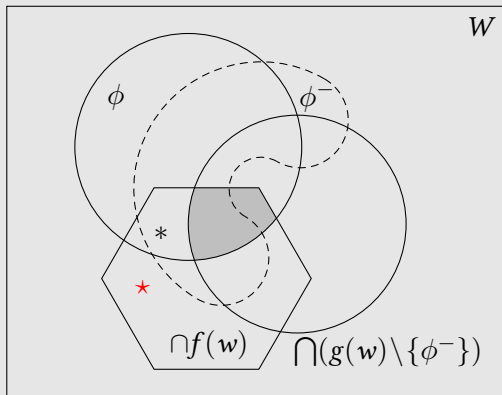


Technical imperatives = **anankastic conditionals**

- Si vis amari, ama!
- Si quiereres recibir amor, hay que darlo!
- Ef þú vilt vera elskaður verður þú að elska.
- Esli vy hotite polučit' ljubov', vam nužno darit' ee.
- Wenn du geliebt werden willst, mußt du selber lieben;  
verschwenderisch lieben, verschwenderisch dich hingeben!

# Mathematics: Sets of possible worlds ...

...to illustrate the technical / pragmatic imperative distinction



## The Anscombe thesis

King Duncan rewarded Macbeth  
by making him Thane of Cawdor.

- If a person F-s by G-ing, then her act of F-ing = her act of G-ing.
- A sentence  $x \phi$ -s by  $\psi$ -ing is true only if there is one event which satisfies both  $\psi$  and  $\phi$ .



# Semantics: Higher-order logic of events



the Chesapeake  $\left[ \left[ \text{signal surrender} \right] \left[ \text{by} \left[ \text{lowering the flag} \right] \right] \right]$

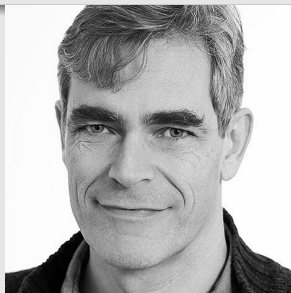
$\underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{\langle \langle v, t \rangle, \langle v, t \rangle \rangle} \qquad \underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{\langle v, t \rangle}$

$\underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{\langle v, t \rangle}$

## Faultless Disagreement

“For example, you and I might disagree on whether Picasso was a better artist than Matisse, without either of us being at fault.”

- “Candidate topics include aesthetic, culinary or moral value, probability, justification of beliefs, ...”
- Semantic **Relativism** versus **Contextualism**





# Comparative Semantics: Subjective attitude verbs

Norwegian *synes*, Swedish *tycka*...

#Mange forskere synes at dinosaurene ble utryddet av et voldsomt kometnedslag for 65 millioner år siden.

觉得

Subjective attitude verb in  
Chinese NSL

- Arguments from here to **Contextualism**



Genitivus explicativus ...

...čudo padenija berlinskoj steny ...

... miracle fall.GEN Berlin.GEN wall.GEN

‘...the miracle of the fall of the Berlin Wall...’

...as the inverse of the definite article:

$\{\langle X, x \rangle \mid X = \{x\}\}$  (*iota*)

$\{\langle x, X \rangle \mid X = \{x\}\}$  (*ident*)

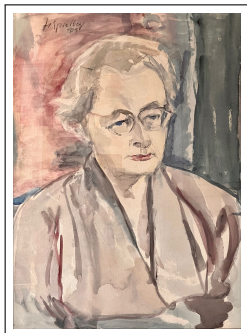
# Formal Semantics: the magic of the function II

The stamp is missing. ...



Solution: “stamp” as a set of partial functions from worlds to stamps:  
{ $\lambda w$  the stamp on the envelope in  $w$ , if one there is; undefined else}

# A word of thanks, nach Ingerid Dal



*H\*L-H H\*L-H      H\*L-H H\*L-H*  
*Es ist mir eine grosse Ehre und wahre Freude,*  
*diese ehrenvolle Auszeichnung in Empfang*  
*nehmen zu dürfen.*