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# The Groningen Lectures on Modes of Reasoning

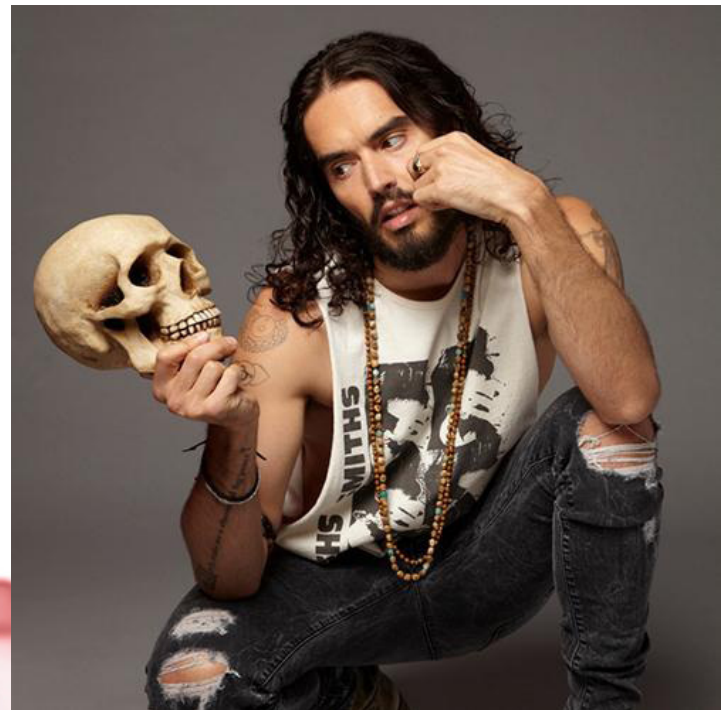
Opening Lecture:  
25 September 2013

## *The Courage of Truth*

Prof. Michael Dillon, Professor Emeritus  
(Politics), Lancaster University

*'Despair and hopelessness are one thing;  
suspicion is another. And if you are suspicious,  
it is because, of course you have a certain hope.'*  
(Michel Foucault)

Currently, there is not a governing institution in the western world in which people can confidently invest their hope. This lecture therefore explores the point that Foucault makes immediately after the observation that serves as epigraph here. Everything, he added, depends upon understanding which kind of hope you have, and which kind of hope it is reasonable to have, in order to avoid the corruption of hope that the politics in which you find yourself thrown threatens. Such politics are always a politics of truth, since, just as the correlative of any rule of truth is a corresponding truth of rule, so also is the correlative of every truth of rule a rule of truth. As the last of his lecture courses at the College de France, especially, testified, Foucault inspired, and was himself clearly also inspired by, a certain hope. This hope was rooted not only in the politics but also the courage of truth. Since the thinker does not enjoy possession of his or her thought, other thinkers enjoy a right of usufruct in it. Their task, to take up a thought or question in order to derive insight from its further use. This is the method at work here. Three questions are therefore taken-up from Foucault and pursued in the lecture: What is the courage of truth for which the radical opacity of modern political truth calls? What is the hope that is invested in that courage of truth? What self is required by the courage of truth demanded by an age characterized by the radical opacity of its political truth to its political subjects?



25 September 2013, 17-18.30, Senate Room, Academieggebouw, Broerstraat 5, Groningen  
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