



# British Philosophy

+ its political aspects



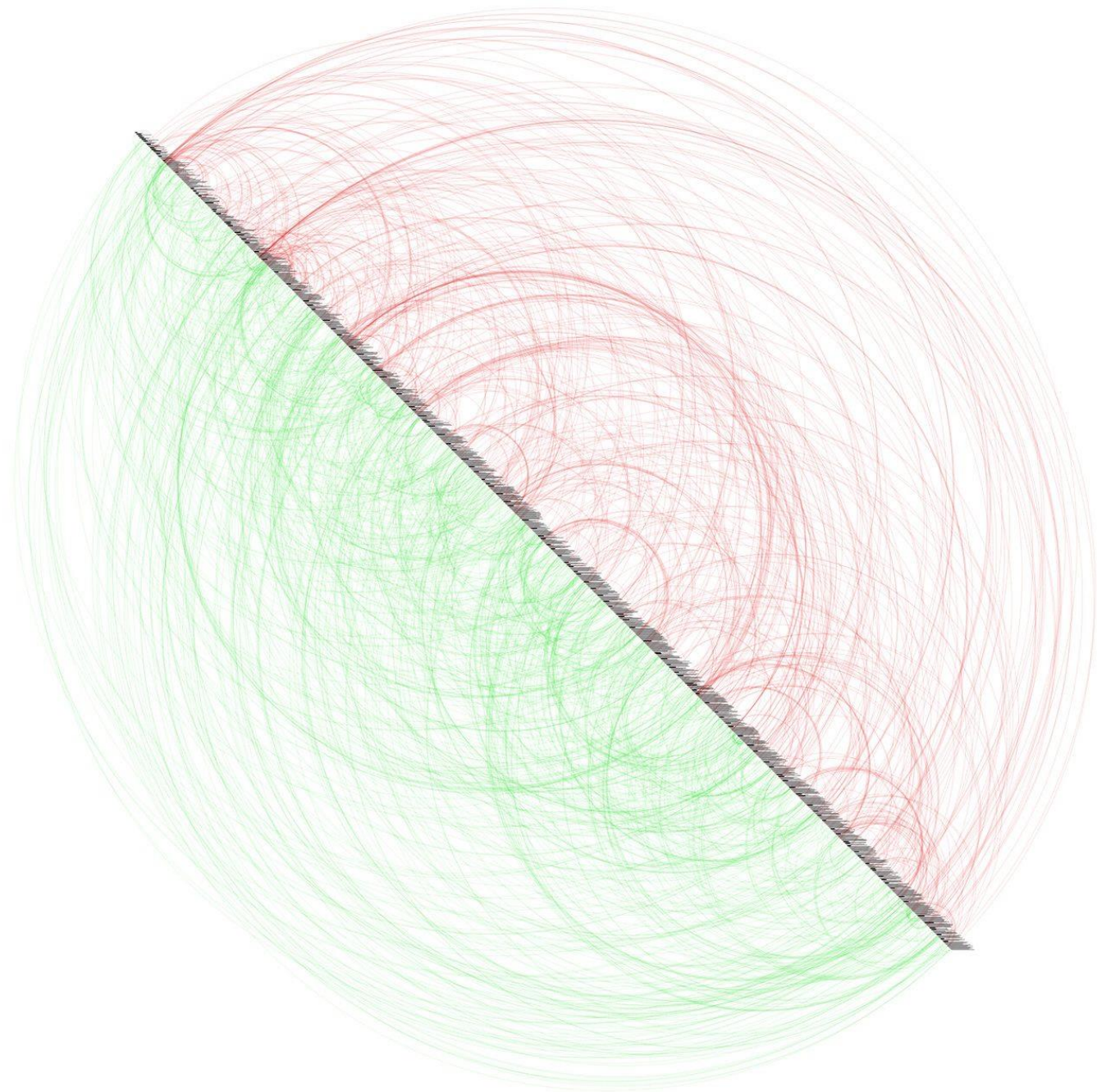
# Sasan Karimi

Post-doc fellow @ FWS, UT

PhD. in (Political) Philosophy @ UT

M.Sc. in Philosophy of Science @ SUT

B.Sc. in Physics @ SBU





**EPICURUS** 341-270 BCE

- What enables us to be free is the existence of a certain randomness (swerve) in the motions of our atoms.



**THOMAS HOBBS** 1588-1679

- Psychological motivations are sorts of pushes: appetites and aversions.
- We are free agents if we are able to do as we will; liberty is the absence of external impediments.



**BENEDICT SPINOZA** 1632-1677

- There is no free will; the mind is determined to wish this or that by a cause, which has also been determined by another cause, ad infinitum.



**GOTTFRIED WILHELM LEIBNIZ** 1646-1716

- A world with free will is better than one without it; that's why God created this world with evil.



**DAVID HUME** 1711-1776

- Free will is simply the power of acting according to the determination of the will; everyone who is not a prisoner and in chains is free.



**IMMANUEL KANT** 1724-1804

- We have moral concepts (good, right, duty, etc.), so we cannot but believe that we have free will, at least sometimes.
- We believe that there is a non-empirical realm (the noumenal world) in which decisions are made freely, that affects our bodies.



**WILLIAM JAMES** 1842-1910

- The notion of an all-encompassing Absolute Spirit undermines the values of human individuality, freedom, and responsibility.
- Determinism, though logically tenable, is pragmatically unacceptable: it trivializes evil and renders our natural reaction of re...



**SIGMUND FREUD** 1856-1939

- There is a dynamic unconscious part of the mind which exerts pressures and influences on what we do and say.



**HENRI BERGSON** 1859-1941

- We know we have free will because we have direct intuitive knowledge about our decisions to act.



**ELIZABETH ANSCOMBE** 1919-2001

- The intention is not a cause: causes are distinct from their effects, whereas intentional actions a...



**ABRAHAM IRVING MELDEN** 1910-1991

## HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

summarized & visualized

- disagreement, contrast, refutation
- agreement, similarity, expansion



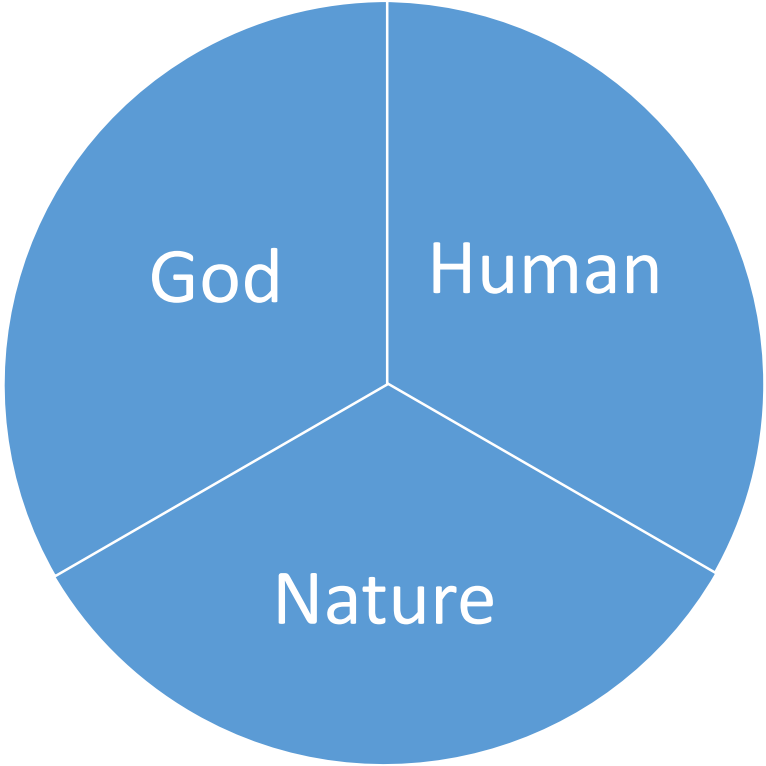
timeline



# Main discussions:

- What is the world? (God, human, nature) - Ontology
- What can we know? – Epistemology
- What/how should we do? – Prescribe





1513	Niccolò Machiavelli	Prince	Italy
1543	Nicolaus Copernicus	De Revolutionibus Orbium Caelestium	Poland
1620	Francis Bacon	Novum Organum	Britain
1637	René Descartes	Discourse on the Method of Rightly Conducting One's Reason and of Seeking Truth in the Sciences	France
1638	Galileo Galilei	Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems	Italy
1651	Thomas Hobbes	Leviathan	Britain
1687	Isaac Newton	The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy	Britain
1690	John Locke	An Essay Concerning Human Understanding Two Treatises of Government	Britain
1748	Leonhard Euler	Introduction to Analysis of the Infinite	Switzerland
1748	Montesquieu	The Spirit of the Laws	France
1750-1765	Diderot and d'Alembert	Encyclopédie	France
1762	Jean-Jacques Rousseau	The Confessions The Social Contract Emile	France
1764	Voltaire	Philosophical Culture	France
1776	Adam Smith	Nations' Wealth	Britain
1781	Immanuel Kant	Critique of the Pure Reason	Germany





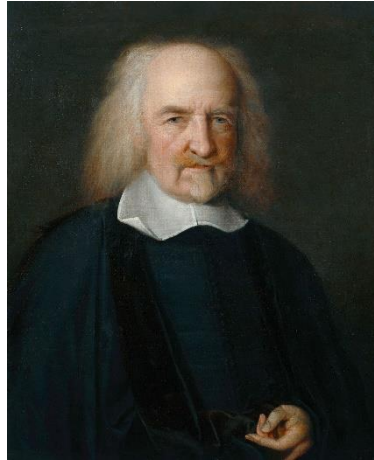
1513	Niccolò Machiavelli	Prince	Italy
1543	Nicolaus Copernicus	De Revolutionibus Orbium Caelestium	Poland
<b>1620</b>	<b>Francis Bacon</b>	<b>Novum Organum</b>	<b>Britain</b>
1637	René Descartes	Discourse on the Method of Rightly Conducting One's Reason and of Seeking Truth in the Sciences	France
1638	Galileo Galilei	Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems	Italy
<b>1651</b>	<b>Thomas Hobbes</b>	<b>Leviathan</b>	<b>Britain</b>
<b>1687</b>	<b>Isaac Newton</b>	<b>The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy</b>	<b>Britain</b>
<b>1690</b>	<b>John Locke</b>	<b>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</b> <b>Two Treatises of Government</b>	<b>Britain</b>
1748	Leonhard Euler	Introduction to Analysis of the Infinite	Switzerland
1748	Montesquieu	The Spirit of the Laws	France
1750-1765	Diderot and d'Alembert	Encyclopédie	France
1762	Jean-Jacques Rousseau	The Confessions The Social Contract Emile	France
1764	Voltaire	Philosophical Culture	France
<b>1776</b>	<b>Adam Smith</b>	<b>Nations' Wealth</b>	<b>Britain</b>
1781	Immanuel Kant	Critique of the Pure Reason	Germany



What we do:



Francis Bacon  
(1620)



Thomas Hobbes  
(1651)



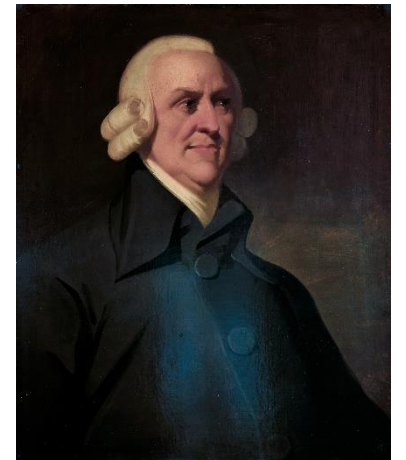
John Locke  
(1690)



George Berkeley  
(1708)



David Hume  
(1740)



Adam Smith  
(1776)

# Course schedule

Week	Subject
1	Introduction
2	Holiday
3	Francis Bacon
4	Francis Bacon
5	Thomas Hobbes
6	Thomas Hobbes
7	John Locke
8	John Locke
9	George Berkeley
10	George Berkeley
11	David Hume
12	David Hume
13	Adam Smith
14	Adam Smith
15	Holiday
16	Final exam





# Your shares

Essays: conceptually genuine but not necessarily “typically publishable”:

- A philosopher/thinker
- A school (Continental, British etc.)
- An era (Ancient, middle ages, renaissance, enlightenment, modern or post-modern)
- A discussion
- A comparison

A “no bother, no fake” deal



Thanks for your attention

[sasan.karimi@ut.ac.ir](mailto:sasan.karimi@ut.ac.ir)

09126967642