

國立中正大學

哲學系學術演講

講者：黃健揚（英國 Durham University 哲學博士）

講題：Why Bayesianism Does Not Generally Make Sense of An Evidential Methodology in Historical Linguistics?

時間：2021.3.24 (Wed.) 15:10-17:00

地點：文學院 412 研討室

摘要：

The Bayesian approach is widely adopted in scientific practice and is helpful for philosophers to spell out the methodology of scientific reasoning. This approach fares well in well-specified settings, where prior probabilities are empirically defensible or will be overridden hence the insignificance of their influence on the posterior probabilities. However, in poorly specified settings such as historical linguistics, Bayesianism hardly fits the methodology. Using the reconstruction of proto-sounds as a case study, I argue that prior probabilities and catch-all likelihoods are generally so scarce in such settings that the Bayesian approach fails to make sense of the rationale behind the comparative method.