

Saturday, 22nd June 2024

Kenworthy Hall,
St Mary's College,
Durham University,
Elvet Hill Road,
Durham,
DH1 3LR

Nancy Cartwright at 80

A Birthday Celebration
and Philosophical Symposium

Saturday, 22nd June 2024

Hosted by



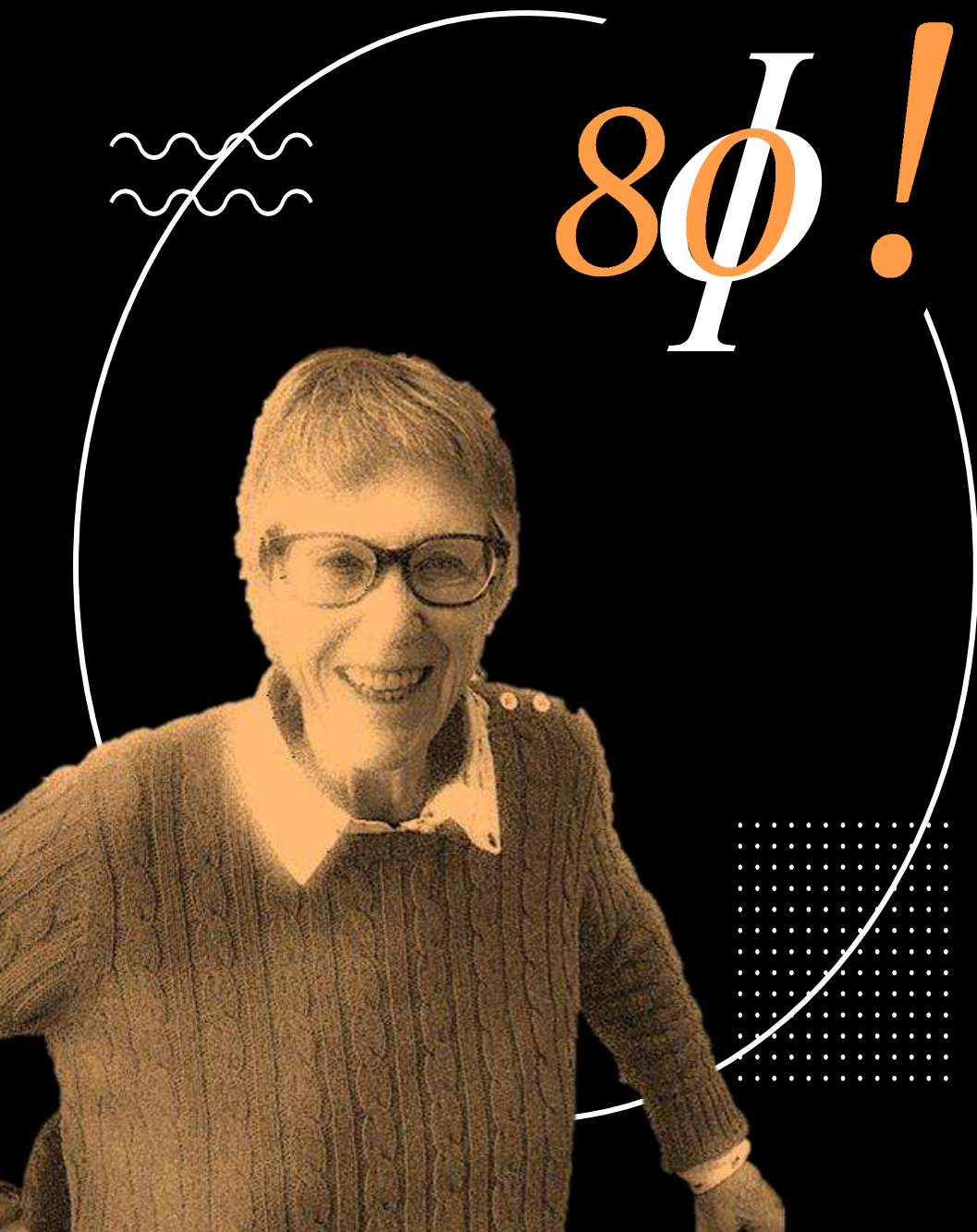
Centre for Humanities Engaging
Science and Society (CHESS)



Durham Philosophy Department



Sponsored by
Durham University



*Join us for an 80th
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
and SYMPOSIUM
to honour*

***Professor Nancy
Cartwright***

22nd June 2024

Kenworthy Hall
St Mary's College, Durham University
Elvet Hill Road, Durham
DH1 3LR

A warm welcome from Nancy

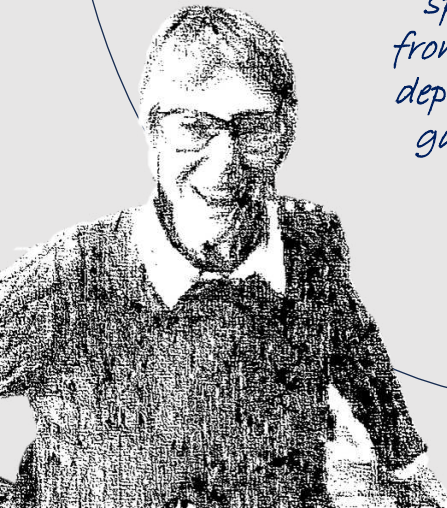
Hello! I'm delighted that you can join me for this birthday celebration!

The guest list comprises the wonderful people with whom I have collaborated through my philosophical life, from early stages to my current colleagues.

I'm anticipating you will mix up together into a fine cocktail!

I extend my heartfelt thanks to John Pemberton for organising the symposium speakers and schedule, to my colleagues from CHES and the Durham Philosophy department for all their work to make this gathering happen, and for all of you, for celebrating with me.

Enjoy!



PROGRAMME

10.30-11.00: Welcome to the conference:
Professor Robin Hendry

11.00-12.30: Dr Katherine Furman:
Distrusting Medicine with All the Feels

12.30-14.00: Lunch

14.00-15.30: Professor Sandra Mitchell
Role obligations and complex social systems

15.30-16.00: Tea

16.00-17.30: Professor Sir Angus Deaton:
Loose lips sink ships: are economists' errors breaking the world?

17.30-17.35: Nancy Cartwright, speaking
for herself!

17.35: Drinks Reception

This conference...

...is a celebration of the world-class academic achievements of Nancy Cartwright, for her 80th birthday.

We celebrated Nancy's 70th birthday with a conference to which we invited her students, past and present. For her 80th, we have invited those who have collaborated with Nancy across the years.

This event is organised jointly by the Department of Philosophy and CHES (the Durham Center for the Humanities Engaging Science and Society), and sponsored by Durham University, to thank Nancy for her exceptional contribution to the work of the university, achieved not just through her unquestionable academic brilliance, but also through her unparalleled hard work, personal commitment and tireless generosity to colleagues.

Nancy's work has long been characterised by collaboration with academics working in related fields, proving the basis for joint insights and progress that could not have been achieved individually. It is therefore fitting that this celebration comprises the presentation of work by three of Nancy's collaborators, chosen as a random cross-section of the broader group of her collaborators. We picked these speakers by drawing names out of a hat from those who had said they were likely to attend this gathering. Each contribution provides a window on areas with which Nancy has engaged.

- Read our recent interview with Nancy : [Philosophy of Life: In conversation with Professor Nancy Cartwright \(at 80\)](#)

The next pages feature our speakers, introduced by Nancy herself.



Dr Katherine Furman

Department of Philosophy, University of Liverpool

<https://katherinefurman.com/>

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/philosophy/staff/katherine-furman/publications/>

katherine.furman@liverpool.ac.uk

- Lecturer in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at University of Liverpool
- Specialised in Philosophy and Public Policy, especially Health Policy cases, particularly infectious diseases in African countries



Following a PhD at London School of Economics, Katherine started her research career as a post doc on the CHES 'Knowledge for Use' project; we worked together on the importance of context in predicting policy outcomes.

She also initiated with me the CHES project on 'Ruth First in Durham'. Ruth First was an anti-apartheid martyr, who having left South Africa, worked at Durham University for 5 years. Katherine knew about her from growing up in South Africa. Katherine also initiated with me the CHES project on Objectivity in Social Activist Research.



Distrusting Medicine with All the Feels

Dr Katherine Furman

Medical interventions rarely take place in emotionally neutral contexts. Even in the best-equipped hospitals with the most impressive medical staff, people are afraid, anxious, lonely, despondent, angry, frustrated – pick your favourite negative emotional state, or combination thereof.

In this talk I argue that these affectively laden states have implications for people's trust in medical interventions and the underpinning science. I provide an account of affective distrust, which does not dismiss agents as irrational or incapable of making good choices for themselves or their loved ones. I do this in the context of two very non-ideal case studies – HIV/AIDS testing and treatment programmes in South Africa in the mid-2000s, and Ebola interventions in West Africa, 2013 – 2016.

Overall, I argue that we must pay close attention to the emotions to get a better picture of the phenomenon.

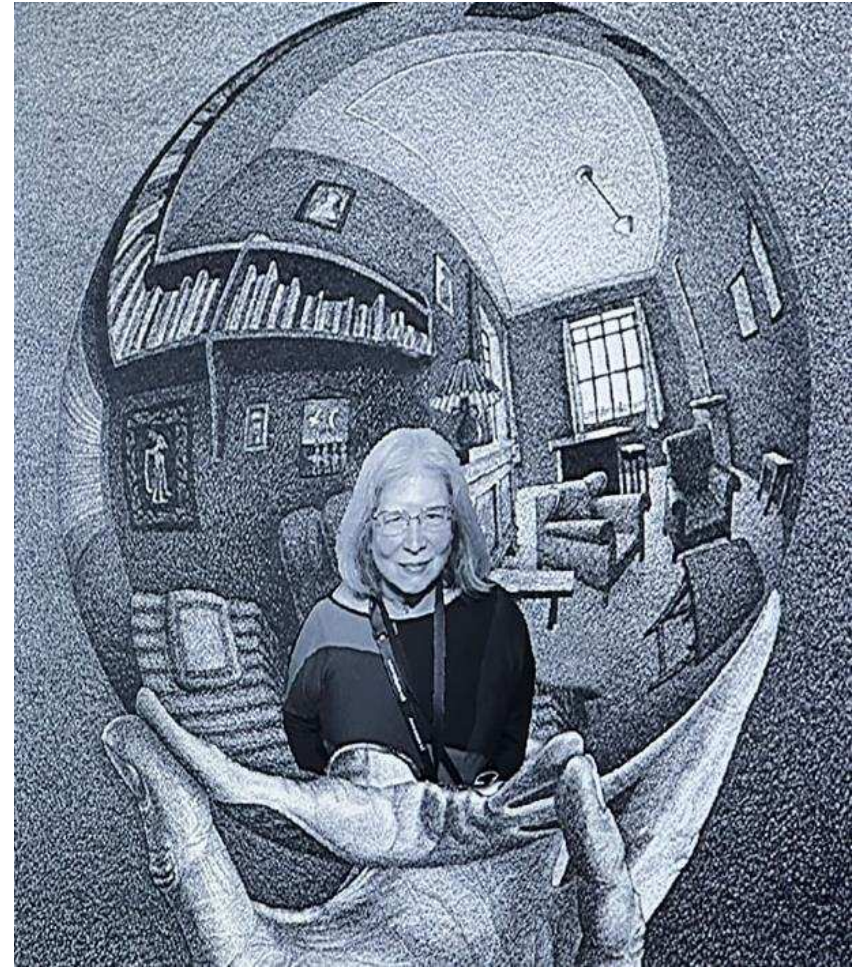


Professor Sandra D. Mitchell

Department of History and Philosophy of Science,
University of Pittsburgh

<http://www.sandradmitchell.com/>
smitchel@pitt.edu

- Distinguished professor of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Pittsburgh
- Specialised in understanding the assumptions and structure of scientific explanations of complex systems and their behaviour

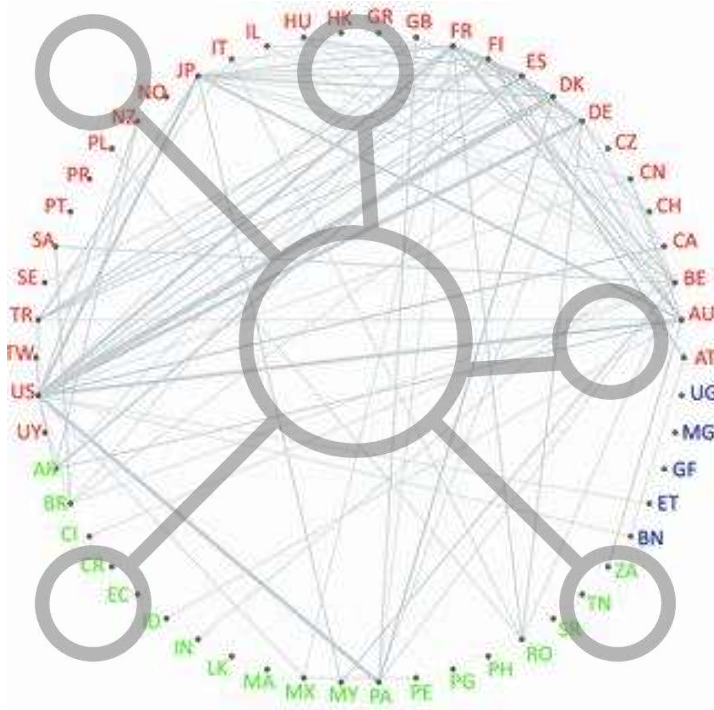


Sandy and I have been thinking together about laws of nature, laws of science, and how different bodies of knowledge can be more effectively fitted together, for over 40 years - since we met at Pittsburgh, where she was a finishing PhD student.

Her work on laws of science and sliding degrees of necessity has been a big influence on me, as well as her theory of integrative pluralism.

Role Obligations and Complex Social Systems

Professor Sandra Mitchell



Modelling takes place embedded within a tangle of institutional norms, expectations, habits, patterns and practices, and modelling objectively will often be a systems-level problem in need of systems-level solutions.” Cartwright N, Ray F. Objectivity and Intellectual Humility in Scientific Research: They’re Harder Than You Think. European Review. 2023.

This talk explores some of the consequences of considering science as a social practice embedded in a complex social network. The question “Is science value-free” is replaced by “Where, when and how do contextual, non-epistemic values, shape and are shaped by scientific practice?”

I suggest answers can be found in a complex systems approach that identifies structural networks and feedback dynamics in the formal and informal institutions that constitute a society. This type of systems-level approach identifies the sources and location of the values that guide scientific actions and exposes causal pathways that permit focused criticism and the potential for effective change.



Professor Sir Angus Deaton

Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

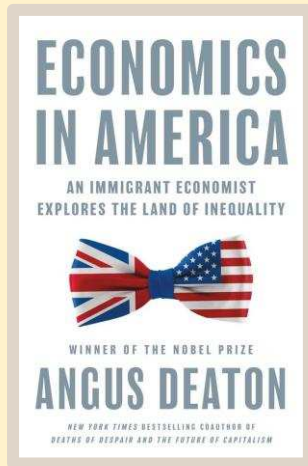
<https://deaton.scholar.princeton.edu/>

<https://www.britannica.com/money/Angus-S-Deaton>

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- Nobel Prize laureate for Economics (2015): received the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel “for his analysis of consumption, poverty, and welfare
 - Senior Scholar and the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professor of Economics and International Affairs Emeritus at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs
 - Specialised in ‘Microeconomics’; interests include health, happiness, development, poverty, inequality, and how best to collect and interpret evidence for policy
 - Member of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA, of the American Philosophical Society, a Fellow of the British Academy and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He is a past President of the American Economic Association. He was made a Knight Bachelor in 2016

Loose lips sink ships: are economists' errors breaking the world?

Professor Sir Angus Deaton



Angus received the Nobel Prize (2015) in recognition of the importance of his analysis of consumption poverty and welfare.

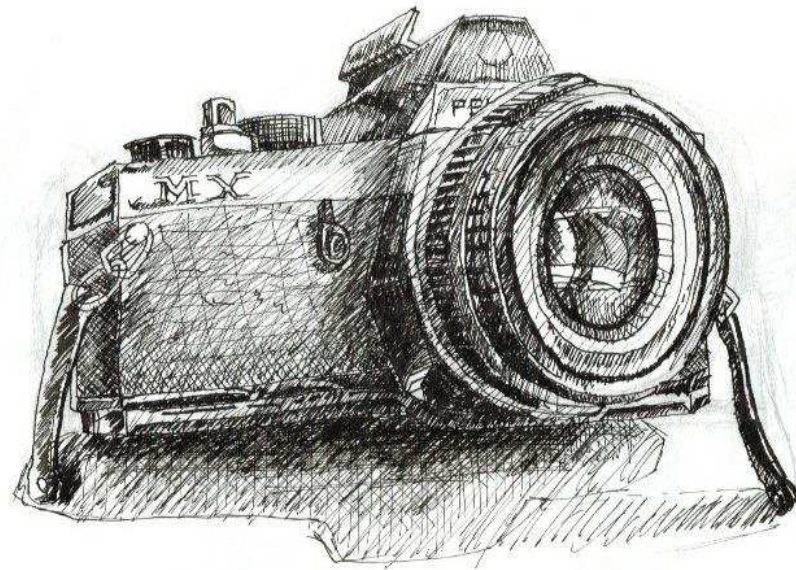
I have worked with Angus on understanding and misunderstanding in Randomised Controls Trials, especially their role in the last one and a half decades in development economics.

I recently used his new book (*Economics in America: an Immigrant Economist explores the land of inequality*, 2023) in my science studies seminar at University of California San Diego, where we listened to a recording of one of the chapters read by him.

Angus' presentation title, 'Loose lips sink ships' (from a WWII campaign) relates to a metaphor that he is aware I have used a lot, especially when referring to Randomised Controls Trials. These large-scale medical studies can only establish things which are 'true' for the study group - but the way the results are reported is without reference to the population, their context, class, demographic etc. This is loose talk; it misleads people into what you can infer from the data.



~ Gallery ~
Nancy through the decades





Nancy (upper left corner)
at 20 with University of
Pittsburgh news staff

Nancy at 35,
with Ian Hacking





Nancy at 43,
with Stuart,
Emily and
Sophie



Nancy at 50, with
Hasok Chang

Nancy at 60, in Finland, with a group of
Stanford former PhD students





Nancy at 70,
post half-
marathon (in
California, with
stepson Daniel)

Nancy at 'almost 80',
with family all around!



I said that I preferred short stocky tangled arguments, not long thin elegant ones.
...so someone made this image of me!

Do you have any pictures of me, which would be good to share?

Please upload them to this padlet, where we can all see them (LINK: [Nancy's birthday photo album](#))
...and remember to add in who you are, along with when and where (and who) is in the picture!

Please include any other comments you wish to share.
You can add comments to other photos too.
Have fun!

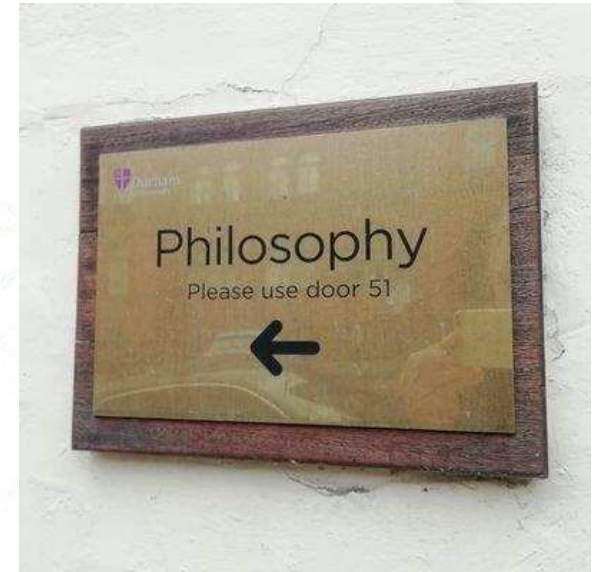
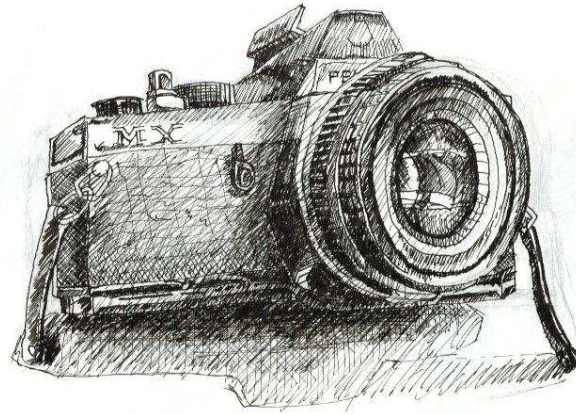
[Nancy's birthday photo album](#)



~ Thank you! ~



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