

# Conceptual Engineering Online Seminar

**SPRING  
2022  
PROGRAMME**

The **Conceptual Engineering Online Seminar** is co-organized by the Department of Philosophy at the University of Zurich and the Arché Research Centre at the University of St Andrews. The meetings take place every Tuesday at 3-5pm BST/4-6pm CEST from March 29 to June 28, for a total of 14 sessions.

**SESSION #03 | APRIL 12, 2022**

## **SALLY HASLANGER & STEPHEN YABLO (MIT) | “Amelioration as Course Correction”**

Must amelioration involve meaning change? Not necessarily, if we view words as evolving abstract particulars not unlike songs. Not anything goes, of course. There will have to be guard rails. Our picture has three main elements: (i) Reference *electromagnetism*: Eligibility-makers are allowed relating to us and our practices. (ii) Selection not redirection: Meanings are a special sort of object-kind, like statue or ship, except the objects in this case are interpreted words. Disputes about the meaning of a word are like disputes about which of the ship-like objects earlier in the harbor the owner can/should lay claim to. They are resolved not by bringing in further ships (words), but by clarifying which of the ones already in play that it makes sense to be going on with. (iii) Extending charity: Ameliorative interpretations, if not revisionary, must be reconcilable with earlier usage. Helpful here is an extended version of charity that forgives misstatements traceable to specific errors/oversights, AND those reflecting the limited conceptual opportunities available in the speaker’s cultural milieu.

**ZOOM DETAILS**  
ID: 632 3422 0568  
Passcode: CEOS22

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL**  
[www.youtube.com/ConceptualEngineering](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCconceptualEngineering)

**ORGANIZERS**  
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