College of Charleston Department of Philosophy
Visiting Speaker Series

What Nāgārjuna *Really* Has at Stake in Refuting Motion: Thoughts on Action as a Person-level Phenomenon

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The 2nd century South Asian philosopher Nāgārjuna is considered the founder of the Madhyamaka or "Middle Way" school of thought. In his magnum opus, *Stanzas of the Middle Way*, Nāgārjuna addresses issues similar to those that concern Western philosophers like Sextus Empiricus, Hume, and Wittgenstein. Specifically, Nāgārjuna offers an analysis of phenomena or processes that appear to exist independently but that, he claims, cannot so exist. These phenomena, though lacking inherent existence, are not, however, nonexistent. Rather, they are taken to be only conventionally real. Dan Arnold will consider one such skeptical argument, the argument against motion, as concerning essentially the issue of whether a personal level of description can admit of an exhaustively impersonal explanation.

Thursday, March 21, 3:15-4:45
Addlestone Library, Rm. 227

*Reception to follow at the Philosophy office, 14 Glebe Street*