Erasmus Institute of Philosophy and Economics

Philip Kitcher

On 8 November 2013, the 100th Dies Natalis of the Erasmus University Rotterdam, prof. Philip Kitcher will receive an honorary doctorate at the Faculty of Philosophy. Kitcher is a British philosopher of science, whose research focuses on biology, mathematics and more recently his work is concerned with the ethical and political constraints of scientific research, the evolution of altruism and morality, and the apparent conflict between science and religion.

Kitcher studied Mathematics/History and Philosophy of Science at University of Cambridge and obtained his PhD in History and Philosophy of Science at Princeton University in 1974. Currently he is working as John Dewey Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University.

The Faculty of Philosophy organises two events with Philip Kitcher on 7 and 8 November.

Workshop with Philip Kitcher
The first event is a workshop in which two of Kitcher's books will be discussed by philosophers from different universities. Kitcher will respond to all papers presented. During the morning session Kitcher's *The Ethical Project* will be discussed and during the afternoon *Science in a Democratic Society* will be topic of discussion.

Public lecture
On 8 November, before Philip Kitcher will receive his honorary doctorate, he will give a public lecture with the title "Religion, Truth, and Progress".

Centennial
Erasmus University Rotterdam has been in existence in its present form since 1973. Its history, however, dates back to 1913, the year in which the Netherlands School of Commerce (Nederlandsche Handels-Hoogeschool, NHH) was founded through private initiative with broad support from the Rotterdam business community.

The statutory recognition of higher education in commerce and economics as an academic discipline resulted in 1939 in a change of name. The NHH became the NEH (Nederlandse Economische Hogeschool) or Netherlands School of Economics.

The growing complexity of society led in the 1960s to the arrival of the faculties of Law and Social Sciences, followed in later decades by Philosophy, History and Arts, and Business Administration.

In 1973, the Medical Faculty Rotterdam and the Netherlands School of Economics merged to become Erasmus University Rotterdam – the first university in the Netherlands named for a person, a man to whom Rotterdam owes the reputation it has held for centuries in the academic world, Desiderius Erasmus.