

Something in the Water: Meta-Comedy and the Immanent

standard lecture

In this paper I will be using the meta-comedic performances of comedian Stewart Lee to throw light on François Laruelle's idea of 'radical immanence', that is, an immanence that is performative. I will also interrogate both Laruelle and Lee by contrasting them with Jean-Luc Nancy's idea of 'transimmanence' and Bernard Stiegler's notion of 'intermittence'. What is noteworthy in both of the latter is the use of fish-in-water imagery (Nancy's jellyfish, Stiegler's flying fish). This is significant given that Laruelle too has coined the 'philo-fiction' of the *poisson-eau* (fish-water) as an image of the 'immanent' – a word used to denote an experience of immanence that is permanently mutating. This experience, I argue, can also be seen as meta-comedic through Lee's watery performances of a comedy where what is inside and outside the performance is always fluid, and even what the 'this' is of his performances is also highly porous.

Bio:

John Ó Maoilearca is Professor of Film and Television Studies at Kingston University, London. He is a core convener of Performance Philosophy. He has published ten books, including (as author) *Bergson and Philosophy* (2000), *Post-Continental Philosophy: An Outline* (2006), *Philosophy and the Moving Image: Refractions of Reality* (2010), and (as editor) *Bergson and the Art of Immanence* (2013) and *The Bloomsbury Companion to Continental Philosophy* (2013). His last book was *All Thoughts Are Equal: Laruelle and Nonhuman Philosophy* (University of Minnesota Press, 2015).

