

## **International Symposium "Research Across Boundaries"**

University of Luxembourg, 16-19 June 2010

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## Roy Bhaskar - Abstract Keynote

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### KEYNOTE

#### **Unity of Theory and Practice, Interdisciplinarity, and Non-duality**

Much philosophy is not ‘serious’, in a sense which derives from Hegel. When, for example, David Hume, the eighteenth century British Empiricist, says he has no better reason for leaving a room by the ground floor door than by the second floor window, he is not being serious. For if he were, he should leave such rooms by the second floor window on at least fifty per cent of all occasions. But of course he never does, because he has reason, and good reason, for always choosing to exit by the ground floor door, namely the force of gravity (which of course his epistemology was not able to accommodate). Lack of seriousness is manifest in a split between theory and practice, a split between our talk and our walk – so that the theorist becomes in practice what I have called a ‘TINA formation’. Our philosophical aim now should be one of enhanced reflexivity, that is where our practice is right, to be able to articulate it in theory; and where it is wrong, to make way for a transformed practice (so as to bring practice into alignment with our best theoretical intuitions).

Seriousness about the topic of ‘research across

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