

THE MIND SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW LECTURE

# The Logic of 'Nothing'

## from Homer to Heidegger

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This public lecture explores ways and reasons to talk about nothing. The logical pitfalls in this territory will be illustrated using jokes in sources ranging from *The Odyssey* through medieval parodic sermons to *Through the Looking Glass*. But the topic is no laughing matter: Descartes, Locke, Hume and Heidegger have all been found guilty of mishandling 'nothing' by taking it to be a name of something peculiarly mysterious. Is this verdict just?

