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Conceptions of Philosophy

Is philosophy an art or a science? Or neither? Is there progress in philosophy? Can any philosophical position be definitely established? Can philosophy discover wisdom as its name implies, and as many earlier philosophers hoped? Or is it no more than an under-labourer to the sciences? Or just a clarifier of concepts?

For its annual lecture series the Royal Institute of Philosophy in 2007–8 gathered together a group of distinguished philosophers who were prepared to take these questions seriously. In doing so they had to consider what is possible in philosophy and what its methods should be. Their answers, varied and at times surprising, are contained in this volume.

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