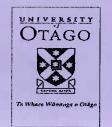**U3A**

**Dunedin Charitable Trust**

A LEARNING OPTION FOR THE RETIRED

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Series 1 2011

# INDUCTION IS A MYTH (Karl Popper)

**Dates:  Monday, 7 March – Monday, 11 April 2011**

**Time: 2.15 pm – 4.15 pm**

**Venue: Knox College, Arden Street, Opoho, Dunedin**

**Enrolments for this course will be limited to 50**

**Course Fee:  $40.00**

**Tea and Coffee provided**

**Course Organiser: Graham Batts (477 4880)**

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You may apply to enrol in more than one course in each series (subject to numbers). If you wish to do so, you must indicate your choice preference on the application form, and include payment of the appropriate fee(s).

All applications must be received by noon on Wednesday, 9 February 2011, and you may expect to receive a response to your application on or about 18 February.

Any questions about these courses between 18 February and 8 March should be made to Sue Keith at Rodgers Law (03 474 0847).  After 8 March any questions should be referred to the Secretary, U3A Dunedin, telephone 471 9913 or on email at <graysinn@clear.net.nz>

*Please keep this brochure as a reminder of venue, dates, and times for the courses for which you apply.*

# INDUCTION IS A MYTH (Karl Popper)

What distinguishes science from other things? Not its subject matter – you can be 'scientific' about anything. Rather, its method. So, what is the distinctive method of science? The usual answer is 'the inductive method', which is underpinned by a special 'inductive logic'. However, Popper declared that induction is a myth – there is no inductive method and there is no special inductive logic. This course explains and defends Popper's heretical view.

The course will be presented by Professor Alan Musgrave, Department of Philosophy, University of Otago.

**7 March**    How the so-called inductive or Baconian method is supposed to work. And why it cannot work. 'Umbrellaology'. In fact, Bacon was no Baconian. The method he actually advocated, 'eliminative induction', is not induction at all but rather deduction.

**14 March**    All so-called 'inductive arguments' are best seen as deductive arguments with suppressed or hidden premises of one kind or another. This applies to inductive generalisation, complete induction and demonstrative induction (not to mention mathematical induction). It also applies to arguments involving Newton's famous 'Rules of Reasoning in Philosophy'.

**21 March**    The positivists and Popper distinguished between the contexts of discovery and justification (invention and appraisal) of hypotheses. There is, *contra* positivist/Popperian orthodoxy, a logic of scientific discovery, but it is entirely deductive.

**28 March**    The 'logic of justification', such as it is, is also entirely deductive. We must distinguish justifying what we believe from justifying our believing it. This distinction enables us to see how Popper solved the 'philosophical problem of induction' posed by Hume.

**4 April**    Peirce's 'abduction' is also deduction in disguise – as is its intellectual descendant, inference to the best explanation (IBE). Strict or constructive empiricists about science cannot avail themselves of a version of IBE.

**11 April**    Lewis Carroll's paradox regarding Achilles and the Tortoise does not show what followers of Wittgenstein think it shows – that scientific theories are not true or false statements but rather rules of inference.