PHIL 323 (Summer School):
Puzzles of the Imagination:
From Children’s’ Worlds to Philosophers’ Worlds

Look at the picture above. Does it represent a possible situation? Can you envision impossible situations?

Children’s’ imagination appears to have no boundaries. They can turn from being the wicked witch to a princess and back in the same brief pretend game. The bizarre assumptions of philosophers seem to be similarly flexible. They can even imagine that the world does not exist! But are there no rules or constraints? What is the function of these imaginative activities? Imagination is also involved in our reactions to literature, film, and art in general. Why do people cry in a theatre if they obviously do not believe that the sad event is really happening? What about imagination in autistic people, or in animal minds?

Wednesdays 11:40-14:30 in FASS 2101 (you are welcome to bring your lunch), and Fridays 9:40-12:30 in FASS 1080, Instructor: Mehmet Çakmak