

STUDY QUESTIONS
LITERATURE, ETHICS, AND AUTHORITY
15.269

Class #14

Read:

Michael Frayn, Copenhagen

Study Questions:

1. Late in Copenhagen, the physicists Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg have the following exchange: *Bohr*: Heisenberg, I have to say—if people are to be measured strictly in terms of observable quantities . . .” *Heisenberg*: “Then we should need a strange new quantum ethics. There’d be a place in heaven for me.” (92) What are these two men saying to each other? What does Heisenberg mean by “quantum ethics”?

2. What is Margrethe’s role in this play? How does her comment that “what I see isn’t a story? It’s confusion and rage . . .” (p. 73) reflect on the central methodological principle of 15.269?

3. Could Frayn have written this play about businesspeople? What organizational roles might Bohr and Heisenberg fill?