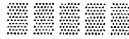


ABSTRACTS

ARE ALL THEODICIES IRREFUTABLE?

Peter Hutcheson

William Rowe, in his famous article, "The Problem of Evil and Some Varieties of Atheism," claims that "... there exist instances of intense suffering which an omnipotent, omniscient being could have prevented without thereby losing some greater good or permitting some evil equally bad or worse." William Alston thinks that we are not rationally justified in accepting Rowe's premise, and for that reason the so-called inductive argument from evil collapses. In this paper I defend the modest conclusion that some theodicies are refutable. This undermines Alston's argument that is based on the premise that no theodicies are refutable.



THE NECESSITY AND SUPPRESSION OF DOUBT

Charles Klayman

In C. S. Peirce's "The Fixation of Belief," an irritation of doubt prompts inquiry and ceases when a belief is fixed. However, the fixation of a belief does not eradicate doubt, but suppresses it to such a degree that it no longer irritates. There are degrees of doubt and a high degree becomes an irritation. Each method of inquiry suppresses doubt differently. The scientific method, unlike others, does not completely suppress doubt, but suppresses it to such a degree that doubt is incorporated into the scientific method as a catalyst that prompts for the checking of the results of inquiry against experience.

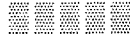


A CRITIQUE OF PHENOMENALISM

Deacon Newhouse

Traditionally there have been three theories of perception: direct realism, representational realism, and phenomenalism. Of the three, phenomenalism is the most radical with its claim that the real world does not exist independently of minds. For the phenomenalist, the real world consists of actual and possible sense data. In this paper I will examine and critique phenomenalism, and I will also argue that phenomenalism is vulnerable to decisive objections. To illustrate this, I will first present an argument against the possible sense data theory used by phenomenologists to explain the apparent permanence of the real world. I will then present an argument that illustrates the difficulties that causation presents to phenomenalism. Finally, I will argue that phenomenalism leads to solipsism.

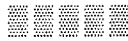
From these arguments I conclude that phenomenalism's attempt to account for the apparent permanence of the real world fails, and it turns into a form of solipsism. These criticisms provide adequate reason for us to reject phenomenalism and search for a less problematic theory of perception.



JOHN STUART MILL ON SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY

Lamont Rodgers

It is clear that John Stewart Mill found social contract theory an inadequate means of establishing principles of justice. In both *On Liberty* and *Utilitarianism*. Mill makes a few disparaging remarks about social contract theory. Unfortunately, Mill never presents his specific objection to the contractarian approach. Working from Mill's diagnosis of our intuitive notion of justice and David Archard's notion of self-abrogating behavior, which he attributes to Mill, I uncover two objections which Mill tentatively raises against what I call the Agreement Principle. I argue that the Agreement Principle is really the target of Mill's rejection of contractarianism. The final section of this discussion is devoted to issue of possible amendments to the Agreement Principle. In this section I present a potential argument which Mill could use to show that any intuitively adequate version of contractarianism will need to rely upon the principles of utilitarianism. The point of this argument will be that there is no need to endorse an intuitively adequate version of contractarianism; we should just endorse utilitarianism, or so Mill should argue.



THE SPECIES NORM CRITERION OF FULL MORAL STATUS

Danny Scoccia

If it is impermissible to use the severely retarded in lethal medical experiments, then must it be impermissible to use animals as well? Is it only on the basis of a morally indefensible "speciesism" that we can assign a higher moral status to "nonparadigm" humans than animals? This paper defends a "no" answer to these questions. It considers what it means to say that something possesses "full moral status" (FMS), then examines personhood, potential personhood, sentience, speciesism, species norm, and theological criteria for FMS. It argues that a criterion for FMS can be understood in either of two ways: as part of the correct standard of rightness or as part of a good decision procedure. It then argues that those who accept the personhood criterion at the level of standard of rightness have good reason to support a speciesist criterion as part of the best decision procedures. This shows that one can support FMS for nonparadigm humans but not animals without assuming speciesism at the standard of rightness level.



ON THE ART OF BIOGRAPHY: ROSENZWEIG'S DEBT TO DILTHEY IN *HEGEL AND THE STATE*

Josiah B. Simon

This paper deals with the theoretical underpinnings of Franz Rosenzweig's Hegel biography, *Hegel and the State*. By drawing a relationship to Wilhelm Dilthey's own biography of Hegel, *History of the Young Hegel*, Rosenzweig's methodological starting point is placed in a broader philosophical context. Using Rosenzweig's own foreword to *Hegel and the State* as the basis for interpretation, this paper also shows how Rosenzweig distances himself from Dilthey and, while following Dilthey's demands for the conditions of any biography, tells a story of Hegel's life which reflects Rosenzweig's own understanding of the importance of Hegel.



JOSÉ MARTÍ: THE ROLE OF NATURE IN EDUCATION

Alejandro Strong

This article explores the relationship between education and nature in the writings of José Martí. By first bringing together Martí's theory of nature, specifically the relationship between humans and their environment, I attempt to show the process by which humans learn from the environment. In this discussion of Martí's writing, I describe four distinct roles of nature within this process: place, essence, resources, and pure human life. Considering Martí's philosophy of education in terms of its relationship to this process, offers a deeper understanding of its theoretical basis.

CONTRIBUTORS

Timothy Cleveland is Professor of Philosophy at New Mexico State University. His research interests reside at the intersection of metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of logic, and philosophy of language.

John DePoe recently earned his PhD at the University of Iowa with a dissertation titled, *A Defense of the Knowledge Argument*. He is currently at Black Hawk College but he will start a new position as Assistant Professor at Marywood University in the Fall of 2011. His primary interests are epistemology, metaphysics, and philosophy

Christina "Lynne" Fulmer died on September 25, 2010. She was a graduate of Agnes Scott College and held an MA in philosophy from Rice University. She had recently retired from Texas State University where she pursued her interests in ethics, critical thinking, Wittgenstein, Whitehead, and linguistic philosophy. Lynne was a valued and active member of the New Mexico-West Texas Philosophical Society and had served as President from 2000-2001.

Gilbert Fulmer is Professor of Philosophy at Texas State University. His specializations are philosophy of religion, ethics, and evolutionary metaphysics.

Drew Goodgame received his MA from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 2007 with a thesis titled *The Art of Politics: John Dewey's Theory of Aesthetics, Democracy, and Revolution*. He is currently an independent scholar interested in 17th and 18th French philosophy.

Allison Hagerman received her PhD in the spring of 2010 from the University of New Mexico with a dissertation titled, *An Uncanny Nature: Taking a Side Road to Aesthetic Appreciation of Environment*. She is currently an Adjunct Lecturer at UNM.

Cliff Hill is a Lecturer at the University of Nebraska, Omaha, College of Saint Mary, and Metropolitan Community College. He received his master's at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln and is currently working towards his PhD at that university. His philosophical interests are focused on philosophy of science and philosophy of mathematics/logic.

Charles Hobbs is a visiting assistant professor (2008-2011) at Saint Mary's College (Notre Dame, IN). His areas of specialization include American philosophy and ethics. He earned his PhD from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 2008.

Peter Hutcheson is Professor of Philosophy at Texas State University. His published articles are in phenomenology, philosophy of religion, philosophy of science, and epistemology.

Charles Klayman is currently a Term Instructor of Philosophy at John A. Logan College in Illinois and additionally completing his doctoral studies at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. His primary research areas include aesthetics, classical American pragmatism, and epistemology.

Timothy C. Lord is Professor of Philosophy at Heartland College in Normal, Illinois. His research interests are R. G. Collingwood, Kant, and the relationship between British idealism and early analytic philosophy.

Kevin McCain is a PhD candidate at the University of Rochester. His interests have shifted somewhat since the writing of his contribution to this issue, which was early in his graduate studies. Although he is still interested in philosophers from the modern period (particularly Descartes), his primary interest is in contemporary epistemology.

Deacon Newhouse is a PhD student at the State University of New York-Buffalo. His interests include classical American philosophy (especially Dewey, James, and Emerson), twentieth-century continental philosophy (especially Heidegger, Gadamer, and Levinas), aesthetics, and ethics.

Gregory F. Pappas is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Texas A&M University and works within the American pragmatist and Latin American traditions in ethics and social-political philosophy. His book, *John Dewey's Ethics: Democracy as Experience*, was published by Indiana University Press in 2008.

Lamont Rodgers is a doctoral candidate at Tulane University and a professor at Houston Community College. He specializes in moral and political theory.

Danny Scoccia is Associate Professor of Philosophy at New Mexico State University. His main research interests lie in applied ethics and social/political philosophy.

Alejandro Strong is a PhD candidate at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and Course Director of Outward Bound in Maine.

Josiah Simon is a PhD candidate at the University of Oregon. His interests include philosophy of history, critical theory, and German-Jewish thought.

John Symons is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Department Chair at The University of Texas at El Paso. He works mainly in philosophy of science and metaphysics.

Ernesto Rosen Velásquez is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at University of Dayton, Ohio. His areas of research include Latino philosophy, critical race theory, and social/political philosophy.

NEW MEXICO-WEST TEXAS PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
58th Annual Meeting

Holiday Inn—Town Lake, Austin, Texas
March 30-April 1, 2007

Friday: 2:00-6:00

History of Ancient and Modern Philosophy—Sunflower Room

Gilbert Fulmer (Texas State University), chairperson

- 2:00 Kevin McCain (University of Missouri), "Descartes and the Creation of Eternal Truths"
Comments: Jessica Talamantez (Texas State University)
- 3:00 Ernesto Rosen Velásquez (University at Buffalo SUNY), "Hume's Racism and his Theory of Prejudice"
Comments: Spencer Wertz (Texas Christian University)
- 4:00 Lynne Fulmer (Texas State University), "Astell, Achilles' Heel, and Androcentrism: Hobbes and Locke on the Social Contract"
Comments: Audrey McKinney (Texas State University)
- 5:00 John Bowin (University of California, Santa Cruz), "Aristotle on the Order and Direction of Time"
Comments: Dean Geuras (Texas State University)

Continental Philosophy—Marigold Room

Jo Ann Carson (Texas State University), Chairperson

- 2:00 Allison B Hagerman (University of New Mexico), "Establishing a Conscious Aesthetic Awareness of Our Everyday Surroundings"
Comments: Anna Christina Ribeiro (Texas Tech University)
- 3:00 Josiah B. Simon (Austin, Texas), "On the Art of Biography: Rosenzweig's Debt to Dilthey in Hegel and the State"
Comments: Thomas Urban (Houston Community College)
- 4:00 Matthew J. Goodwin (Southern Illinois University Carbondale) "Establishing the Perceptual Bearings of Thought"
Comments: Jules Simon (University of Texas at El Paso)
- 5:00 Dan Stiver (Hardin Simmons University), "Forgetting the Future"
Comments: Robert Skipper (St. Mary's University)

Friday: 7:00pm-10:00 pm Registration and Reception—Azalea/Bluebonnet Room

Saturday: 8:00-12:00

American Philosophy—Sunflower Room

Thomas Urban (Houston Community College), Chairperson

- 8:00 Gregory F. Pappas (Texas A&M University), "John Dewey and the 'Deliberative Turn' in Political Theory"
Comments: Stephen Barnes (Alamo Community College)
- 9:00 Charles Hobbs (Southern Illinois University Carbondale), "Peirce's Tychism and the Epicurean Swerve"
Comments: Kelly Booth (Southern Illinois University Carbondale)
- 10:00 Charles Klayman (Southern Illinois University Carbondale), "The Necessity and Suppression of Doubt,"
Comments: Megan Mustain (St. Mary's University)
- 11:00 Alejandro Strong (Southern Illinois University Carbondale), "José Martí: The Role of Nature in Education"
Comments: Hamner Hill (Southeast Missouri State)

Epistemology and Metaphysics—Azalea/Bluebonnet Room

Dan Stiver (Hardin Simmons), Chairperson

- 9:00 John M. DePoe (The University of Iowa), "Williamson on the Evidence for Skepticism"
Comments: Peter Hutcheson (Texas State University)
- 10:00 Deacon Newhouse (Texas State University), "A Critique of Phenomenalism"
Comments: Jennifer Grace (Texas State University)
- 11:00 Tim Lord (Heartland Community College), "Collingwood's Critique of the Realist Claim That Knowing Makes No Difference to What Is Known"
Comments: Allan Hazlett (Texas Tech University)

Saturday: 1:00-5:00

Moral and Ancient Greek Philosophy—Sunflower Room

Glenn Joy (Texas State University), Chairperson

- 1:00 Danny Scoccia (New Mexico State University), "The Species Norm Criterion of Full Moral Status"
Comments: Tim Maddox (Hardin Simmons University)
- 2:00 Jean-Paul Vessel (New Mexico State), "Supererogation for Utilitarianism"
Comments: Lijun Yuan (Texas State University)
- 3:00 Audrey McKinney (Texas State University), "But I Thought I WAS Playing Baseball!"
Comments: Cynthia McWilliams (The University of Texas—Pan American)
- 4:00 Nathan Poage (Houston Community College), "The Republic, Filial Duties, and the Dissolution of the Nuclear Family"
Comments: Jo Ann Carson (Texas State University)

Philosophy of Mind—Azalea/Bluebonnet Room

Hamner Hill (Southeast Missouri State), Chairperson

- 1:00 John Symons (The University of Texas at El Paso), "Relevance of Minimal Functionalism"
Comments: Jorge Valadez (Our Lady of the Lake University)
- 2:00 Cliff Hill, "What a Computer Can't Compute, What a Believer Can't Believe"
Comments: Lee Stauffer (New Mexico Highlands University)
- 3:00 Dan Flores (New Mexico State University), "Emergence and Individuation"
Comments: Lee Stauffer (New Mexico Highlands University)
- 4:00 Kelly Booth (Southern Illinois University Carbondale), "It's the Organism"
Comments: Jake Kidd (Texas State University)

Saturday: 5:00pm-6:00pm Business Meeting—Azalea/Bluebonnet Room

Tim Cleveland (New Mexico State University), President
Dan Stiver (Hardin Simmons University), Vice President
Peter Hutcheson (Texas State University), Secretary-Treasurer
Glenn Joy (Texas State University), Editor, *Southwest Philosophical Studies*

7:00pm-10:00pm Banquet and Presidential Address—Azalea/Bluebonnet Room

Tim Cleveland (New Mexico State University), "Trying and Mental Causation"

Sunday: 9:00-12:00

Continental Philosophy (Aesthetics)—Sunflower Room

Jeffrey Gordon (Texas State University), Chairperson

- 9:00 James Stauber (University of Houston), "The Perspective of an Artist"
Comments: Jeffrey Gordon (Texas State University)
- 10:00 Stephen Leach (The University of Texas—Pan American), "Kierkegaard, Mishima, and Repetition"
Comments: Michael Linville (Abilene, TX)
- 11:00 Drew Goodgame (Southern Illinois University Carbondale), "Levinas and the Aesthetic as Given"
Comments: Jolanta Wrobel-Best (Houston Community College)

Mill and Philosophy of Religion—Azalea/Bluebonnet Room

Lynne Fulmer (Texas State University), Chairperson

- 9:00 Gilbert Fulmer (Texas State University), "Plantinga's 'Defeat' of Naturalism"
Comments: Mark Gilbertson (Texas Lutheran University)
- 10:00 Peter Hutcheson (Texas State University), "Are All Theodicies Irrefutable?"
Comments: Danny Scoccia (New Mexico State)
- 11:00 Lamont Rodgers (Houston Community College), "John Stuart Mill on Social Contract Theory"
Comments: Paul Wilson (Texas State University)

End of Conference

Special Thanks to Our Host Institution:
Texas State University-San Marcos
San Marcos, Texas

