Upcoming Conferences

Southwest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy Conference
February 24-25, 2007

Don Rutherford, with the assistance of Mary Domski (U. New Mexico), is hosting the second annual meeting of the Southwest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy in the department on February 24-25. Following the model of similar seminars around the U.S. and Canada, the Southwest Seminar is designed to foster interaction among scholars who work on various topics in the history of early modern philosophy (a period ranging, roughly, from Montaigne to Kant). Presenters include Sam Rickless and UCSD Ph.D. Michael LeBuffe, now an assistant professor at Texas A&M. For the complete program, see the seminar website:

http://www.unm.edu/~Emdomski/swseminar07.html.

The conference is open to the public. If you are interested in attending, contact Don Rutherford (drutherford@ucsd.edu).

New Reading Group

Greek Reading Group
Time and Day: Thursday evenings of the even weeks of term, 7-9 p.m.
Location: Philosophy Department, HSS 8025
This group will read the classical works of philosophy, and everyone with elementary Greek is warmly invited.
For more information, contact Monte Johnson: monte@ucsd.edu
Faculty News

Craig Callender

Craig Callender received the 2006-07 Chancellor’s Associates Faculty Recognition Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching.

Patricia Churchland

Invited Lectures/Conferences Presentations/Conference Presentations


UC San Diego and Salk Institute: Patricia Churchland hosted the Neuroscience Meets Society Conference at on November 4, 2006. Professor Churchland gave a talk titled, “Social Genes and Neuroethics”. Other speakers were Charles Stevens (Salk Institute), George Koob (Scripps Research Institute), Ursula Bellugi (Salk Institute), Terry Sejnowski (Salk Institute), Adam Kolber (Law, USD), Darren Schreiber (Political Science, UCSD).

Here is the link to listen to the talk:

http://beyondbelief2006.org/

Profiles


Publications

“What is the neural basis for aggression?”, Science and Theology News.

“The Big Questions: Do we have free will?”, New Scientist, Nov 18, 2006.

Invited Lectures/Conferences Presentations/Conference Presentations


Amsterdam: In early November, I spent a stimulating week at The University of Amsterdam, as the joint guest of the Psychology, Neuroscience, and Philosophy departments, providing a series of lectures, seminars, and colloquia. The “Chimerical Colors” presentation was once more an special success, as 250 innocent attendees were made the surprised beneficiaries of some novel and ‘impossible’ subjective color qualia. More generally, the Amsterdam scholars were all keenly interested in the general problem of consciousness, and showed themselves to be unusually well-informed on all matters relating to that interdisciplinary issue. The recent exchanges between me and Daniel Dennett were the principal focus of the interdisciplinary seminar. Dan took a beating, in absentia, for his position that humans, thanks to Language, are the only truly conscious creatures on the planet.

Profiles


Publications

“Into the Brain: Where Philosophy Should Go from Here,” Topoi Vol. 25, nos. 1-2 (2006). Ermanno Bencivenga (from UC Irvine) is the creative guest editor of this edition, with 25 highly diverse contributors all addressing the issue of Philosophy’s proper future. Their forward visions are equally diverse, to say the least.

“On the Reality (and Diversity) of Objective Colors: How Human Color Space is a Map of Reflectance Profile Space,” has finally been accepted for publication (after two years of haggling with referees) by Philosophy of Science (sometime in 2007: PofS is running way behind). Color realists rejoice!!

“On the Evolving Fortunes of Eliminative Materialism” is now press as my contribution to Jonathan Cohen’s forthcoming collection (with Brian McLaughlin), entitled Contemporary Debates in the Philosophy of Mind (Blackwell, 2007). Jonathan’s collection here, with competing contributions from pairs of well-known authors on every contemporary topic in the Philosophy of Mind, promises to be huge. Convey him your congratulations, as I here convey him my thanks.
Paul Churchland, Cont.

Neurophilosophy at Work (Cambridge University Press, 2007) is due to hit the bookstores any day now. For your delectation and amusement, a photocopy of its cover art will be posted by the mailboxes shortly. This volume is a collection of a dozen of my recent papers, illustrating the relevance of the emerging Cognitive and Neurosciences on a wide variety of traditional issues central to the discipline of Philosophy. Read it at your peril.

Jonathan Cohen

Invited Lectures/Conferences Presentations/Conference Presentations

“Colors, Functions, Realizers, and Roles”, Florida State University, April 14, 2007.


Publications


“The Truth about ‘The Truth about True Blue’” (with C. L. Hardin and Brian McLaughlin), Analysis, in press.


“Color, Variation, and the Appeal to Essences: Impasse and Resolution” Philosophical Studies, in press.


Jonathan Cohen, Cont.


“There is No Special Problem About Scientific Representation” (with Craig Callender), Theoria 55: 67-85, 2006.

Monte Johnson

Invited Lectures/Conferences Presentations/Conference Presentations


“Democritean Spontaneity”, Colloquium at University of Pittsburgh, October 20, 2006.

Publications

Aristotle on Teleology, was published by Oxford University Press in 2006.

“A comprehensive and stimulating study on an important topic. Anybody interested in teleology will want to read and probe the arguments of this book.” - Notre Dame Philosophical Review

“A very complete survey of a central concept of Aristotle’s thought.” - Bryn Mawr Classical Review

“...valuable contributions to the the field of Aristotelian studies.” - Rhizai

Dana Nelkin

Invited Lectures/Conferences Presentations/Conference Presentations

“Do We Have A Coherent Set of Intuitions about Moral Responsibility?”, The Institute for Cognitive and Decision Sciences, University of Oregon, January 2007.

Publications

“Deliberative Alternatives”, Philosophical Topics (on Agency) 2006.
Samuel Rickless

Invited Lectures/Conferences Presentations/Conference Presentations


“The Right to Privacy Unveiled” Philosophy Department at University of Utah, January 2007.

Publications

Plato’s Forms in Transition: A Reading of the Parmenides, was published by Cambridge University Press in December 2006.

An article I co-authored with Jonathan Cohen, entitled “Binding Arguments and Hidden Variables,” was published in the January 2007 issue of Analysis.

“Locke’s Polemic Against Nativism” will be published in The Cambridge Companion to Locke’s Essay Concerning Human Understanding in February.

Donald Rutherford

Publications

The Cambridge Companion to Early Modern Philosophy, was published by Cambridge University Press in October 2006.
Eric Watkins

Invited Lectures/Conferences Presentations/Conference Presentations

“Kant über das Unbedingte” (invited talk), of Bielefeld, July 2006.


Christian Wüthrich

I am a co-investigator in a research project entitled “Properties and Relations” for which the young group of proposers has recently been awarded a two-year grant by the Swiss National Science Foundation.