

University of California, San Diego

Philosophy Department

Winter 2007 • Newsletter •

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<http://philosophy.ucsd.edu>

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/%7Emdomski/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

“Decision-making and the Brain”, Institute for Bioethics & the Human Future, National Press Club, Washington DC., February 16, 2007.

“Brain-Based Values”, Beyond Belief: Science, Religion, Reason and Survival Conference, at the Salk Institute, November 7, 2006.

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

“Two Heads: A Marriage Devoted to the Mind-Body Problem”, *New Yorker*, February 12, 2007.

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.

“Inference to the best decision”, in: *Oxford Handbook on Philosophy & Neuroscience*, ed J. Bickle, Oxford University Press, in press.



Paul Churchland

Invited Lectures/Conferences Presentations/Conference Presentations

“Meaning on Naturalistic Approaches to Morality”, Beyond Belief: Science, Religion, Reason and Survival Conference at the Salk Institute, Nov 7, 2006.

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

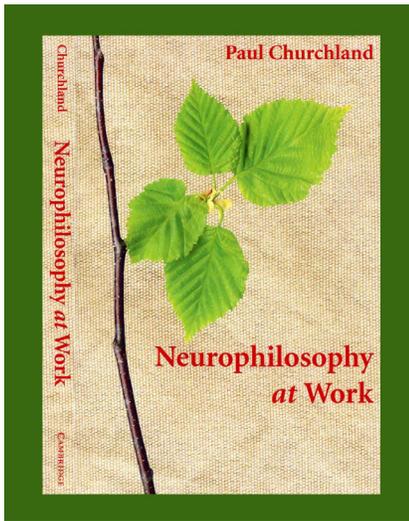
“Two Heads: A Marriage Devoted to the Mind-Body Problem”, *New Yorker*, February 12, 2007.

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.

“Wine, Categories, and Wine Categories”, Wine and Philosophy Mini-Conference, April 4, 2007.

“Color and Perceptual Variation Revisited: Unknown Facts, Alien Modalities, and Perfect Psychosemantics”, Third Biennial Margaret Dauler Wilson Conference at UC San Diego, June 23, 2006.

Publications

Forthcoming book: *Contemporary Debates in the Philosophy of Mind*, co-edited with Brian McLaughlin. New York: Blackwell.

“Color Constancy as Counterfactual”, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, in press.

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

“A Relationalist’s Guide to Error About Color Perception”, *Nous*, in press.

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

“An Objective Counterfactual Theory of Information” (with Aaron Meskin), *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, in press.

“Photographs as Evidence” (with Aaron Meskin), in *Photography and Philosophy: Essays on the Pencil of Nature*, Scott Walden (ed.), Blackwell, in press.

“Binding Arguments and Hidden Variables” (with Samuel C. Rickless), *Analysis*, 67 (293): 65-71, 2007.

Jonathan Cohen, Cont.

“True Colors” (with C. L. Hardin and Brian McLaughlin), *Analysis* 66 (292): 335-340, 2006.

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

Monte Johnson

Invited Lectures/Conferences Presentations/Conference Presentations

“Aristotle’s Aporiai about Spontaneity”, Colloquium at University of Pennsylvania, February 16, 2007.

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

Publications

Artistotle 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

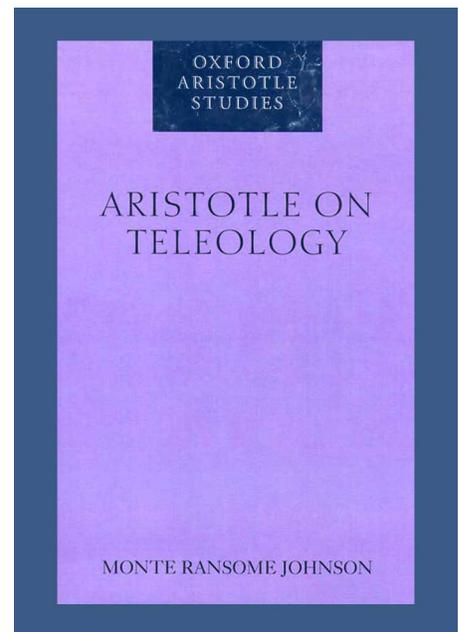
Dana Nelkin

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 Relation between Anti-Abstractionism and Idealism in Berkeley’s Metaphysics” Southwest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy Conference, UC San Deigo, February 2007.

“Descartes on Atomism”, University of Utah Honors Program Lecture Series, January 2007.

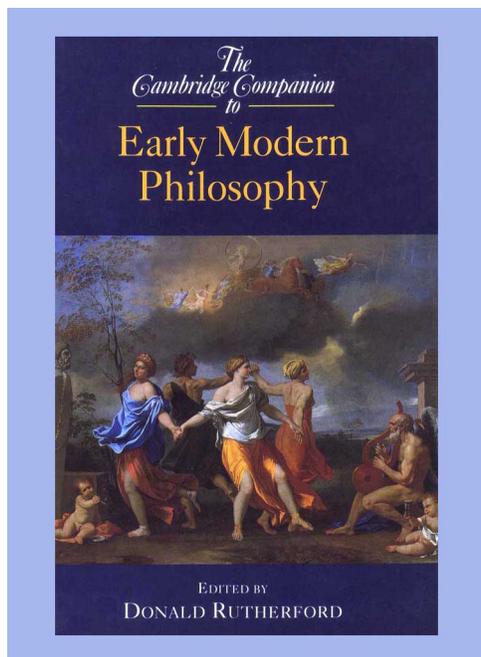
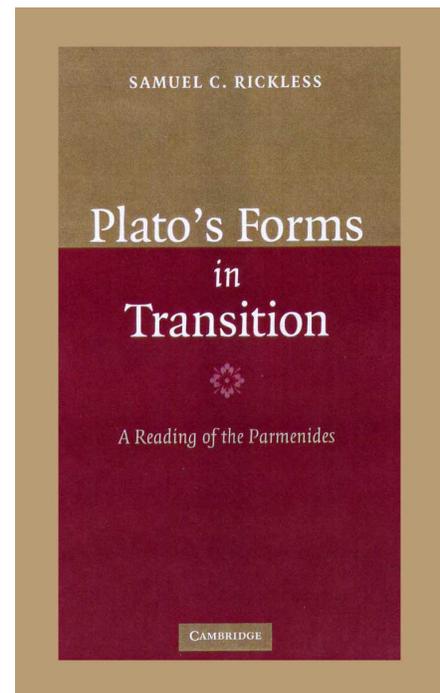
“The Right to Privacy Unveiled” Philosophy Department at Univeristy of Utah, January 2007.

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.

“Kant on the Hiddenness of God” Society of Christian Philosophers, Special Conference on the Enlightenment Project, Houghton College, May 2006.

“Kant and the Myth of the Given” (invited talk), Frankfurt, May 2006.

“Kant and the Experience of Freedom”, Pacific American Philosophical Association, San Francisco, March 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.
