

Indiana Philosophical Association
Fall Meeting 3
November 2007 at
Franklin College
Dietz Center

Program

- 9:30** Coffee
- 10:00** *A Difference in Psychological Performance? Or, a Logical Difference in Tasks?*
Thomas Foster and Michael Slosarz, Ball State University
Commentator: Brian Morton, Indiana State University
- 11:00** *A Problem with Kim's Qualia-Epiphenomenalism*
Jared Bates, Hanover College
Commentator: Stuart Glennan, Butler University
- 12:00** Lunch
- 1:30** Business Meeting
- 2:15** *Burke and Kant on Mathematics and Art*
Charles McCarty, Indiana University-Bloomington
Commentator: Matt Carlson, Indiana University-Bloomington
- 3:15** *Examining Problems and Assumptions: An Update on Criticisms of Open Theism*
David M. Woodruff, Huntington University
Commentator: Jonathan Evans, University of Indianapolis

Abstracts of Papers

"A Difference in *Psychological* Performance? Or, a *Logical* Difference in Tasks?"

Thomas Foster and Michael Slosarz, Ball State University

Today we want to discuss some of the features of a well-known "psychological" test about sentences of the "if...then..." structure. This test—the Wason selection task—has been employed by psychologists to argue that our ability to "reason" is ultimately connected to the evolution of our "watching-out-for-cheaters". We want, today, to analyze the test being employed in that theory's support, what is being claimed about that test, and how and why some of these claims are mistaken. In particular, we want to show that the psychologists' basic comparison of subjects' differing performances across various versions of the Wason tasks is without merit, due to the logical differences of tasks employed.

"A Problem with Kim's Qualia-Epiphenomenalism"

Jared Bates, Hanover College

Kim's (2005) qualia-epiphenomenalism arises out of a commitment to two more general theses. One is that in order for a property to have physical effects, it must itself be physical or physically reducible (Conditional Reductionism). The other is that qualia are irreducible to physical properties (Property Dualism). It follows that qualia are causally inert, that is, they never rank among the causes of our behavior or any other physical happenings. I will argue here that Kim's qualia-epiphenomenalism is in serious trouble. Specifically, I will argue that his Conditional Reductionism is at odds with his Property Dualism, and this conflict plays itself out in causal relations between qualia and cognitive states. I will conclude by pointing to some considerations that favor rejecting property dualism in favor of a thoroughly reductionist physicalism about the mind.

"Burke and Kant on Mathematics and Art" Charles

McCarty, Indiana University-Bloomington

We shall see that, in his "Critique of Judgment," in his reply to Edmund Burke's "Philosophical Enquiry," Kant not only refuted Burke's realistic views concerning aesthetic qualities, but also laid the foundation for a more articulate understanding of the joint contribution of reason, understanding and imagination to pure mathematics. More specifically, we will show that Kant's theory of the "free play" of the imagination and understanding offers defensible answers to some outstanding questions in the contemporary epistemology of mathematics.

"Examining Problems and Assumptions: An Update on Criticisms of Open Theism"

David M. Woodruff, Huntington University

Open theism, a form of relational theology, has generated a host of criticisms. I examine some of the recent criticism by analyzing several centering around biblical, doctrinal and philosophical problems. I show how many criticisms miss the mark by failing to recognize and address the underlying assumptions held by open theists.

Directions from the North or South, Using 1-65

From the north or south, using 1-65: Exit at the Franklin exit. Exit 90, and proceed toward town (west) through two stop lights and a flashing yellow light, to a flashing red light (intersection of King and Forsythe streets). At this intersection turn left (south) and proceed through one stop sign. This will bring you onto campus. Continuing southward, on the left you will pass a large dormitory (Elsy Hall) and then the Dietz Center, where we will meet. Proceed past these buildings and turn into a parking lot on the right just prior to a second stop sign, where you may park. When you enter the Dietz Center, you will find the meeting room to the left of the main lounge area.

Directions from the North or South, using Highway 31

From the north or south, using Indiana 31: From Highway 31, turn eastward onto Jefferson Street, which is also Indiana 44/144. Jefferson Street will be the second stoplight in Franklin, if you are coming from the south, and is best identified by a large Shell station, if coming from the north. Proceed eastward on Jefferson Street through four stoplights, then cross a small new bridge. Immediately after the bridge, turn right onto Branigin Boulevard and into the main entrance of the college. Then turn left at the next stop sign (Monroe Street) and proceed to the next stop sign (Forsythe Street). Turn right at this stop sign and you will see on the left a large dormitory (Elsy Hall) and then the Dietz Center, where we will meet. Proceed past these buildings and turn into a parking lot on the right just prior to a second stop sign, where you may park. When you enter the Dietz Center, you will find the meeting room to the left of the main lounge area.

Directions from the West, Using Indiana 44/144

From the west on Indiana 44/144. When you approach Franklin, you will proceed through a stoplight intersection at the Johnson Memorial Hospital and then approach the intersection of 144/144 with Highway 31. Highway 32 will be noticeable by a large Shell Station on your left, and Highway 31 is the only 4-lane road you will cross. After proceeding through this intersection, continue eastward on Jefferson Street through four stoplights, then cross a small new bridge. Immediately after the bridge, turn right onto Branigin Boulevard and into the main entrance of the college. Then turn left at the next stop sign (Monroe Street) and proceed to the next stop sign (Forsythe Street). Turn right at this stop sign and you will see on the left a large dormitory (Elsy Hall) and then the Dietz Center, where we will meet. Proceed past these buildings and turn into a parking lot on the right just prior to a second stop sign, where you may park. When you enter the Dietz Center, you will find the meeting room to the left of the main lounge area.