

Religion, Science, and Law

Indiana Philosophical Association Fall Meeting 2008

Keynote Speaker:

ROBERT AUDI
(University of Notre Dame)

Saturday, 22 November 2008
IPFW Campus, Fort Wayne,
Classroom Medical 159

— Program —

- 9:30** *Coffee*
- 10:00** JOHN BEAUDOIN (NIU): *Science, Theistic Evidence, and the EC*
Commentator: William Connolly (U Evansville)
- 11:00** ROBERT AUDI: *TBA*
- 12:00** *Lunch*
- 1:30** *Business Meeting* (CM 160)
- 2:30** JOHN HOUSTON (Purdue U): *God Commanded What?*
Commentator: tba
- 3:30** JACOB TUTTLE (Purdue U): *No Miracles, and No Questions Begged?*
Commentator: David C. McCarthy (IUB)

We plan to have a small conference dinner after the meeting. Those interested can also join us for a performance (*Masterworks 4*) of the quite excellent *Fort Wayne Philharmonic* later that day. For further information, please email Bernd Buldt (buldtb@ipfw.edu) or call him at (260) 481-6091.

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— Abstracts —

God Commanded What? A Critical Response to Robert Merrihew Adams on the Abraham Dilemma

JOHN HOUSTON (Purdue U)

In his *Finite and Infinite Goods*, Robert Adams takes up the question of Abraham's dilemma. He structures the substantive issue of conflict around the need to reject one of the following three inconsistent claims:

- 1) If God commands me to do something, it is not morally wrong for me to do it.
- 2) God commands me to kill my son.
- 3) It is morally wrong for me to kill my son.

Adams notes that accepting any two of these propositions necessitates denying the third. After careful consideration, Adams—with obvious tentativeness—rejects (2). In the first part of this paper I argue that the primary weakness in his case for rejecting (2) lies in his failure to reject (2) as *necessarily* false. In the second part of the paper, I argue that a rejection of (2) on such a basis is consistent with other important features of the ethical framework Adams develops in *Finite and Infinite Goods*. In the final section of the paper, I attempt to show how Adams might have argued for the necessary falsity of (2). To accomplish this I present a principle of accidental necessity that I believe consistent with Adams' ethical framework.

No Miracles, and No Questions Begged?

Jacob Tuttle (Purdue University)

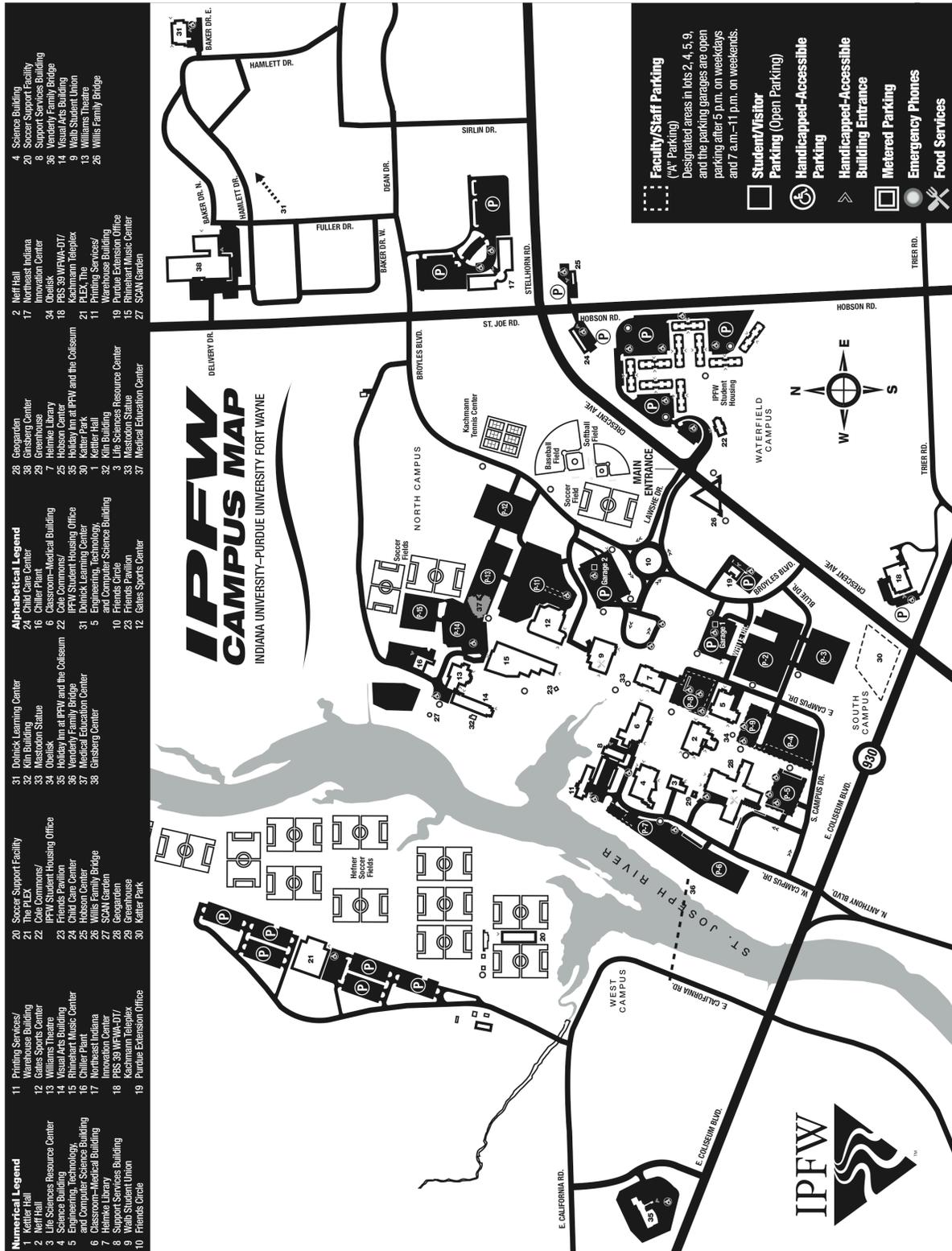
Putnam's 'No Miracle Argument', first presented in 1975, claims that the spectacular predictive success of scientific theories can only be adequately explained by the approximate truth of those theories, and hence that those theories are in fact approximately true. Putnam's version of the No Miracle Argument (hereafter 'NMA') has inspired several variations, each of which retains an abductive inference from the success of scientific theories to their (probable) approximate truth. Antirealists in the philosophy of science have resisted each version of NMA by developing unique and sometimes ingenious objections. But the simplest of these, and seemingly the most serious, has plagued every version of NMA: antirealists have consistently charged that NMA's use of abductive inference is viciously circular. Stathis Psillos (1999) has developed a version of NMA that he claims is able to escape this charge, if only an externalist theory of epistemic justification is granted. Here I shall distinguish two kinds of vicious circularity--dialectical and epistemic--and show that granting an externalist theory of justification saves Psillos's version of NMA only from the charge of epistemic viciousness. This result blunts much of the dialectical force of Psillos's version of NMA.

Science, Theistic Evidence, and the Establishment Clause

JOHN BEAUDOIN (Northern Illinois U)

That no genuinely scientific theory could both raise an Establishment Clause issue and merit inclusion in the public school science curriculum is a view widely held among the critics of creation science and intelligent design theory. In this paper I suggest that, at least in principle, a theory implicating the supernatural in bringing about worldly states of affairs could deserve inclusion in science instruction, and that the secular value in communicating the truth to students, whatever that truth might be, should trump (for purposes of constitutional analysis) any tendency the material has to proselytize students.

The IPA Fall Meeting 2008 takes place in the Classroom-Medical building, no 6 on the map; the room, CM159, is located in the northeast corner of the building.



Driving Directions to IPFW

Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne
2101 E. Coliseum Blvd. | Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Conference venue: CM 159

Conference telephone: (260) 481-6366

From I-69 North

If you are taking I-69 from the north, watch for exit 112B-A, which is the Coldwater Road South/Coldwater Road North exit. Take Coldwater Rd. south for about 1.5 miles until you reach E. Coliseum Blvd. Turn left onto E. Coliseum Blvd. and go for about 1.5 miles until you reach Crescent Ave. (the second traffic light after the bridge). Turn left onto Crescent Ave. and go until you reach the next intersection (immediately after you go under the IPFW Pedestrian Bridge). Turn left onto the IPFW campus.

From I-69 South

If you are taking I-69 from the south, watch for exit 111A. Merge south onto Lima Rd. Take Lima Rd. about a mile until you reach Coliseum Blvd. Turn left onto Coliseum Blvd. and go for about 2 miles until you reach Crescent Ave. (the second traffic light after the bridge). Turn left onto Crescent Ave. and go until you reach the next intersection (immediately after you go under the IPFW Pedestrian Bridge). Turn left onto the IPFW campus.

From Fort Wayne International Airport

Leaving the airport, start by going east on Ferguson Rd. Take Ferguson Rd. about a mile until you reach Bluffton Rd. Turn left and take Bluffton Rd. (SR-1) about a mile to Baer Field Thruway. Turn right onto Baer Field Thruway and go about 3 miles until you reach E. Paulding Rd. Then take E. Paulding Rd. for about 1 mile until you get to S. Anthony Blvd. Turn left onto S. Anthony Blvd, taking it north for approximately 6 miles until you reach E. Coliseum Blvd. When you get to the intersection at E. Coliseum Blvd., make sure you are in the right lane. Once you pass through the intersection, you will be on the IPFW campus.

From US-24 West

If you are taking US-24 from the west, watch for the exit to I-69. Take I-69 north and watch for exit 111A. Merge south onto Lima Rd. Take Lima Rd. about a mile until you reach W. Coliseum Blvd. Turn left onto W. Coliseum Blvd. and go for about 2 miles until you reach Crescent Ave. (the second traffic light after the bridge). Turn left onto Crescent Ave. until you reach the next intersection (immediately after you go under the IPFW Pedestrian Bridge). Turn left onto the IPFW campus.

From US-24 East

If you are taking US-24 from the east, watch for I-469 as you approach Fort Wayne. Where I-469, US-24, and Lake Avenue meet, you will want to take Lake Ave. west for about 6 miles until you reach Coliseum Blvd. Turn right onto Coliseum Blvd. and go for about 2.5 miles until you get to Crescent Ave. Turn right onto Crescent Ave. and go until you reach the next intersection (immediately after you go under the IPFW Pedestrian Bridge). Turn left onto the IPFW campus.

From SR-3 North

Take SR-3 (Lima Rd.) south until you reach W. Coliseum Blvd. Turn left onto W. Coliseum Blvd. and go for about 2 miles until you reach Crescent Ave. (the second traffic light after the bridge). Turn left onto Crescent Ave. and go until you reach the next intersection (immediately after you go under the IPFW Pedestrian Bridge). Turn left onto the IPFW campus.

From SR-1 South

If you are taking SR-1 (Bluffton Road) from the south, watch for I-469. Continue on Bluffton Rd. for about 3.5 miles and watch for Baer Field Thruway. Turn right onto Baer Field Thruway and go about 3 miles until you reach E. Paulding Rd. Then take E. Paulding Rd. for about a mile until you get to S. Anthony Blvd. Turn left onto S. Anthony Blvd, taking it north for approximately 6 miles until you reach E. Coliseum Blvd. When you get to the intersection at E. Coliseum Blvd., make sure you are in the right lane. Once you pass through the intersection, you will be on the IPFW campus.

From US-33 North

If you are taking US-33 from the north, US-33 will merge with US-30. Take US-30 east (passing I-69) until it intersects with W. Coliseum Blvd. Take W. Coliseum Blvd. about 4.5 miles until you reach the intersection with Crescent Ave. (the second traffic light after the bridge). Turn left onto Crescent Ave. and go until you reach the next intersection (immediately after you go under the IPFW Pedestrian Bridge). Turn left onto the IPFW campus.

From US-27/US-33 South

If you are taking US-27/US-33 from the south, watch for I-469. Continue to take US-27/US-33 north until you see S. Anthony Blvd., about 2 miles from I-469. Turn right onto S. Anthony Blvd. and go about 8 miles until you reach E. Coliseum Blvd. When you get to the intersection at E. Coliseum Blvd., make sure you are in the right lane. Once you pass through the intersection, you will be on the IPFW campus.

From US-30 West

If you are taking US-30 from the west, continue taking US-30 east (passing I-69) until it intersects with W. Coliseum Blvd. Take W. Coliseum Blvd. about 4.5 miles until you reach the intersection with Crescent Ave. (the second traffic light after the bridge). Turn left onto Crescent Ave. and go until you reach the next intersection (immediately after you go under the IPFW Pedestrian Bridge). Turn left onto the IPFW campus.

From US-30 East

Take US-30 west to Fort Wayne. When you see I-469, continue on US-30 (also SR-930) until the intersection with Lincoln Highway in New Haven. Take Lincoln Highway about 3 miles and watch for the exit to Coliseum Blvd. Take Coliseum Blvd. north about 4 miles until you get to Crescent Ave. (Coliseum Blvd. will begin curving to the northeast after E. State Blvd.) Turn right onto Crescent Ave. and go until you reach the next intersection (immediately after you go under the IPFW Pedestrian Bridge). Turn left onto the IPFW campus.

From US-37 North

If you are taking US-37 from the north, watch for I-469. Continue on US-37 (Maysville Rd.) until you see Stellhorn Rd., about a mile from I-469. Turn right onto Stellhorn Rd. and go for about 4 miles until you reach Crescent Ave. Turn left onto Crescent Ave. and watch for the next intersection before the IPFW Pedestrian Bridge. At the intersection, turn right onto the IPFW campus.

Fall 2008 IPA Business Meeting

**Saturday, November 22, 2008, 1:30 PM
IPFW, CM 160**

Agenda

1. Welcome (call to order) & Acceptance of the Agenda
2. Approval of Spring 2008 Meeting Minutes (for action)
3. Treasurer's Report (for information/discussion)
4. Membership Dues (for action)
5. Nominations for Spring 2009 IPA Meeting Site (for discussion/action)
6. Update on IPA Web-page (for discussion)
7. Program Committee Proposal (for discussion/action)
8. Old Business
9. New business

All members are cordially invited to attend and to participate.

Minutes of the Indiana Philosophical Association Business Meeting of April 12, 2008

Present: Eric Dalton (President), Peter Murphy (Secretary-Treasurer), David McCarty, Tom Howald, Jared Bates, Christopher Pynes, Jeffrey Fry

A. Order of Meeting

The Spring 2008 meeting took place in the Atherton Union at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The program proceeded as follows:

1. Morning speakers:
 - a. First speaker: Charlie Hobbs (Southern Illinois University-Carbondale), “A Naturalistic Immortality” Commentator: Tom Howald (Franklin College)
 - b. Second speaker: Christopher Pynes (Western Illinois University), “The Potentiality Problem Redux” Commentator: Jason Eberl (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis)
2. Afternoon speaker:
 - a. Third speaker: Chris Tucker (Purdue University), “Three (Mistaken) Accounts of Evidential Support” Commentator: Jared Bates (Hanover College)

B. Minutes of the Meeting

1. President Eric Dalton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:45
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.
3. The treasurer’s report was read and accepted.
4. It was announced that Chris Tucker won the 2008 prize for the best graduate student paper.
5. Location for the Fall 2008 meeting was discussed. It was decided that it will be held at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.
6. Bernd Buldt was nominated and elected Secretary/Treasurer.
7. The upcoming fall meeting, emphasizing the topic Religion, Science, and Law, was discussed. Several potential keynote speakers from Indiana were mentioned. The Executive Committee will contact these people to see if they are interested in giving a keynote talk to kick off the conference.
8. The issue of using liaisons at departments was again discussed. The Secretary-Treasurer was charged with making sure that their names are on the IPA mailing list.
9. David McCarty offered the services of his research assistant to help with identifying the philosophers in Indiana who are interested in the IPA and would be willing to take a more active role in the IPA. Eric Dalton moved that we take David up on this offer. This passed unanimously.
10. The issue of sending paper copies of the IPA’s Call for Papers and the Program to individuals, as opposed to just departments, was discussed. There is the feeling that the number of submissions we have been receiving and the number of people attending the conference is dwindling, at least in part, because fewer people know about the conferences, and this is due to their not receiving paper copies of the Call for Papers and the Program.

Eric Dalton moved that we send multiple copies of the Call for Papers for the upcoming fall meeting to each department in the state. This passed unanimously.
11. The meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.

Report and minutes respectfully submitted by Peter Murphy (Secretary-Treasurer)

IPA Treasurer's Report

Peter Murphy, University of Indianapolis

| Date & Transaction | Amount Added | Balance |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 04/08/06 | 45.00 cash | 168.45 |
| Fall 2006 | 76.00 cash | 244.45 |
| 04/16/07 | 40.00 | 284.45 |
| 11/05/07 | 25.00 | 309.45 |