

OXFORD SURVEYS IN SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

General Editors: **Chris Barker**, New York University, and **Christopher Kennedy**, University of Chicago

Oxford Surveys in Semantics and Pragmatics provides critical distillations of the central empirical questions in contemporary semantics and pragmatics and the most important lines of research on them. Its books give graduate students up-to-date sources of instruction and reference and provide an accessible source of reference for all scholars throughout the discipline and related fields, notably in philosophy and cognitive science.

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Reference

Barbara Abbott, Michigan State University

This book presents the most important problems of reference and considers their solution. It presupposes no technical knowledge, presents analyses from first principles, illustrates every stage with examples, and is written with verve and clarity. This is the ideal introduction to reference for students of linguistics and philosophy of language.

Oxford Surveys in Semantics & Pragmatics No.2

March 2010 | 322 pages

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suitable as
a student text

NEW EDITION

Meaning in Language

An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics

THIRD EDITION

Alan Cruse

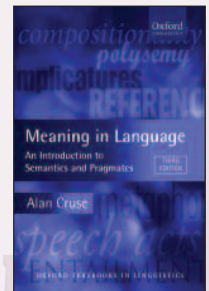
A comprehensive introduction to the ways in which meaning is conveyed in language. Alan Cruse covers semantic matters, but also deals with topics that are usually considered to fall under pragmatics. A major aim is to highlight the richness and subtlety of meaning phenomena, rather than to expound any particular theory.

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Semantic Analysis

SECOND EDITION

Cliff Goddard, University of New England, Australia

This lively textbook introduces students and scholars to practical and precise methods for articulating the meanings of words and sentences, and for revealing connections between language and culture. Topics range over emotions, speech acts, words for animals and artefacts, motion, activity verbs, causatives, discourse particles, and nonverbal communication. Alongside English, it features a wide range of other languages, including Malay, Chinese, Japanese, Polish, Spanish, and Australian Aboriginal languages. Undergraduates, graduate students and professional linguists alike will benefit from Goddard's wide-ranging summaries, clear explanations and analytical depth. Meaning is fundamental to language and linguistics. This book shows that the study of meaning can be rigorous, insightful and exciting.

Oxford Textbooks in Linguistics

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BESTSELLER

Pragmatics

Yan Huang, University of Auckland

'[A]n excellent textbook in pragmatics... Huang's achievement is impressive.'

Journal of Pragmatics

'This [new] publication by Professor Huang ... gives a very thorough introduction to this subdiscipline in linguistics, which is becoming increasingly intertwined with psychology and neurolinguistics. ... I would therefore recommend this introductory text to any postgraduates or researchers in psycholinguistics.'

The Psychologist

'[T]he book is very thorough in its coverage of topics within the field. Mindful of its student audience, it also has extensive study questions, examples, and glossaries. My overall impressions is that it is a valuable textbook to anyone in the field of pragmatics.'

The Linguist List

This introduction to pragmatics provides an authoritative and comprehensive account of its central topics and a guide to the latest research. After describing the subject's scope and history, it examines conversational and conventional implicature, presupposition, speech act theory, and deixis. It then explores the interfaces between pragmatics and other core areas of inquiry, including cognition (focussing on relevance theory), semantics, and syntax. Professor Huang's lively account contains exercises with suggested solutions, a glossary, and guides to further reading. This is the ideal textbook for students of linguistics. It is also a valuable resource for scholars in related fields.

Oxford Textbooks in Linguistics

2006 | 368 pages

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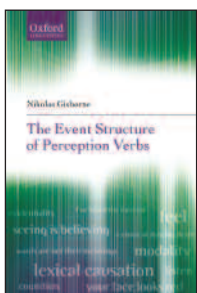
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978-0-19-929837-2, HARDBACK

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The Event Structure of Perception Verbs

Nikolas Gisborne, University of Edinburgh



This book examines the semantics and syntactic behaviour of perception verbs such as look, see, taste, hear, feel, sound, and listen. It considers their meanings, modality, and irregularity, and examines the kinds of polysemy they exhibit. It offers new insights on lexical causation, evidentiality, and processes of cognition.

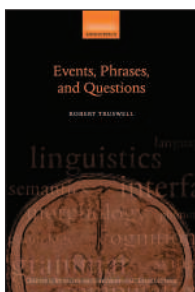
March 2010 | 336 pages

978-0-19-957779-8, HARDBACK

£60.00



Events, Phrases, and Questions



Robert Truswell, University of Edinburgh

Uniting work from philosophical, cognitive and linguistic perspectives, Dr Truswell develops a model of the structure of events as perceptual and cognitive units. He predicts the acceptability of particular formulations, considers the individuation of events in the light of the model, and provides a novel account of patterns of question formation.

Oxford Studies in Theoretical Linguistics

January 2011 | 288 pages | Figures | Tables

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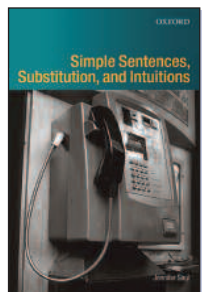
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NEW IN PAPERBACK

Simple Sentences, Substitution, and Intuitions



Jennifer M. Saul, University of Sheffield

The phenomenon of substitution failure is a longstanding focus of discussion for philosophers of language. Substitution failure occurs when a change from one co-referential name to another (e.g. from 'Superman' to 'Clark Kent') affects the truth-value of a sentence. Jennifer Saul has shown that this can occur even in the simplest of sentences. She presents the first full-length treatment of this puzzling feature of language, and explores its implications for the theory of reference and names, and for the methodology of semantics.

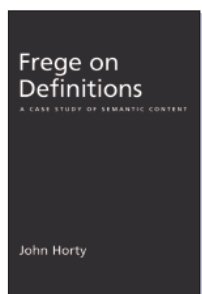
August 2010 | 188 pages

978-0-19-957564-0, PAPERBACK £16.99
978-0-19-921915-5, HARDBACK £35.00

NEW IN PAPERBACK

Frege on Definitions

A Case Study of Semantic Content



John Hortry, University of Maryland

In this short monograph, John Hortry explores the difficulties presented for Gottlob Frege's semantic theory, as well as its modern descendants, by the treatment of defined expressions. With its combination of technical semantics and history of

philosophy, Hortry's book tackles some of the hardest questions in the philosophy of language. It should interest philosophers, logicians, and linguists.

February 2010 | 174 pages | OUP USA

978-0-19-973271-5, PAPERBACK £19.99
978-0-19-531441-0, HARDBACK £37.50

Meaning, Mind, and Matter

Philosophical Essays

Ernie Lepore and **Barry Loewer**, both at Rutgers University

Ernie Lepore and Barry Loewer present a series of papers in which they come to terms with three views that have loomed large in philosophy for several decades: that a theory of meaning for a language is best understood as a theory of truth for that language; that thought and language are best understood together via a theory of interpretation; and that the mental is irreducible to the physical. They aim to both offer critical assessment of the views and to develop them. They show that each of these views remains of great significance for current work in philosophy of language and mind.

November 2010 | 256 pages

978-0-19-958078-1, HARDBACK £35.00

BIOGRAPHY

Peter Ludlow

Peter Ludlow is Professor of Philosophy at Northwestern University. His principal areas of work are in the philosophy of language and formal semantics, with applications to numerous topics in the philosophy of mind, metaphysics, epistemology, and the syntax/semantics interface in linguistics. He previously taught at the University of Toronto, at the University of Michigan (in both linguistics and philosophy) and at SUNY Stony Brook. Under the name Urizenus Sklar, he has also written on conceptual issues in virtual worlds and topics in cyberculture more generally.



Photo © Steve Pyke

The Philosophy of Generative Linguistics

Peter Ludlow, Northwestern University

Peter Ludlow presents the first book on the philosophy of generative linguistics, including both Chomsky's government and binding theory and his minimalist program. Ludlow explains the motivation of the generative framework, describes its basic mechanisms, and then addresses some of the many interesting philosophical questions and puzzles that arise once we adopt the general theoretical approach. He focuses on what he takes to be the most basic philosophical issues about the ontology of linguistics, about the nature of data, about language/world relations, and about best theory criteria. These are of broad philosophical interest, from epistemology to ethics: Ludlow hopes to bring the philosophy of linguistics to a wider philosophical audience and show that we have many shared philosophical questions. Similarly, he aims to set out the philosophical issues in such a way as to engage readers from linguistics, and to encourage interaction between the two disciplines on foundational issues.

January 2011 | 240 pages

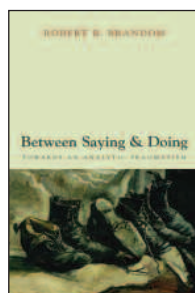
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NEW IN PAPERBACK

Between Saying and Doing

Towards an Analytic Pragmatism



Robert B. Brandom, University of Pittsburgh

'Between Saying and Doing is an enriching, enlivening book. This is the work of a generous philosopher at the height of his powers stretching readers to the height of theirs.'

Maximilian de Gaynesford, *Times Literary Supplement*

Between Saying and Doing aims to reconcile pragmatism (in both its classical American and its Wittgensteinian forms) with analytic philosophy. It investigates the relations between the *meaning* of linguistic expressions and their *use*. Giving due weight both to what one has to *do* in order to count as *saying* various things and to what one needs to *say* in order to specify those *doings*, makes it possible to shed new light on the relations between *semantics* (the theory of the meanings of utterances and the contents of thoughts) and *pragmatics* (the theory of the functional relations among meaningful or contentful items). Among the vocabularies whose interrelated use and meaning are considered are: logical, indexical, modal, normative, and intentional vocabulary. As the argument proceeds, new ways of thinking about the classic analytic core programs of empiricism, naturalism, and functionalism are offered, as well as novel insights about the ideas of artificial intelligence, the nature of logic, and intentional relations between subjects and objects.

April 2010 | 280 pages

978-0-19-958554-0, PAPERBACK £12.99
978-0-19-954287-1, HARDBACK £25.00

Putting Metaphysics First

Essays on Metaphysics and Epistemology



Michael Devitt, City University of New York

The metaphysical part of this book is largely concerned with realism issues. Michael Devitt starts with realism about universals, dismissing Plato's notorious 'one over many' problem. Several chapters argue for a fairly uncompromising realist view of the external

physical world of commonsense and science. Both the nonfactualism of moral noncognitivism and positivistic instrumentalism, and deflationism about truth, are found to rest on an antirealism that is hard to characterize. A case is presented for moral realism. Various biological realisms are considered. Finally, an argument is presented for an unfashionable biological essentialism.

The second part of the book is epistemological. Devitt argues against the a priori and for a Quinean naturalism. The intuitions that so dominate 'armchair philosophy' are empirical not a priori.

Throughout the book there is an emphasis on distinguishing metaphysical issues about what there is and what it's like from semantic issues about meaning, truth, and reference. Another central theme, captured in the title, is that we should 'put metaphysics first'. We should approach epistemology and semantics from a metaphysical perspective rather than vice versa. The epistemological turn in modern philosophy, and the linguistic turn in contemporary philosophy, were something of disasters.

January 2010 | 368 pages

978-0-19-957697-5, PAPERBACK £22.50
978-0-19-928080-3, HARDBACK £55.00

The Oxford Handbook of Compositionality

Edited by **Markus Werning**, Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf, **Wolfram Hinzen**, Durham University, and **Edouard Machery**, University of Pittsburgh

Leading linguists and philosophers report on every aspect of one of the most exciting and contentious fields in the study of language and mind, the notion that the meaning of an expression is determined by the meaning and syntax of its parts. The book reveals the connections in different lines of research and highlights the most challenging opportunities.

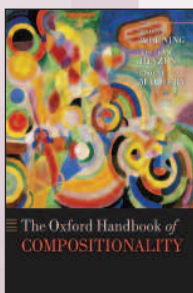
Oxford Handbooks in Linguistics

March 2011 | 748 pages

978-0-19-954107-2, HARDBACK

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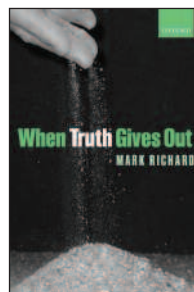
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NEW IN PAPERBACK

When Truth Gives Out

Mark Richard, Tufts University, Massachusetts



'I found Richard's book hugely stimulating. Readers will benefit from thinking hard about his various ideas'

Paul Boghossian, Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews

Is the point of belief and assertion invariably to think or say something true? Is the truth of a belief or assertion absolute, or is it only relative

to human interests? Most philosophers think it incoherent to profess to believe something but not think it true, or to say that some of the things we believe are only relatively true. Common sense disagrees. It sees many opinions, such as those about matters of taste, as neither true nor false; it takes it as obvious that some of the truth is relative.

Mark Richard's accessible book argues that when it comes to truth, common sense is right, philosophical orthodoxy wrong. Truth is inevitably relative, given that we cannot work out in advance how our concepts will apply to the world. Richard explains what it is for truth to be relative, rebuts standard objections to relativism, and argues that relativism is consistent with the idea that one view can be objectively better than another. The book concludes with an account of matters of taste and of how it is possible for divergent views of such matters to be equally valid, even if not true or false.

When Truth Gives Out will be of interest not only to philosophers who work on language, ethics, knowledge, or logic, but to any thoughtful person who has wondered what it is, or isn't, for something to be true.

May 2010 | 192 pages

978-0-19-958728-5, PAPERBACK

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978-0-19-923995-5, HARDBACK

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Talking About Nothing

Numbers, Hallucinations, and Fictions



Jody Azzouni, Tufts University, Massachusetts

We talk about what doesn't exist. We say: 'Mickey Mouse was invented by Walt Disney,' and if we say this, we've said something true. But if something doesn't exist, it has no properties. (What, after all, is it that's supposed to have properties?) How, then, can anything we say be

true (or false) of such things? This is the old problem of nonbeing, dating back to Plato and before. This original book shows the ways in which the true and the false are broader than what there is. It shows how what we say truly and falsely extends beyond ontology, in every sense in which that word is used.

November 2010 | 352 pages | OUPUSA

978-0-19-973894-6, HARDBACK

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NEW EDITION

Metaphor

A Practical Introduction

SECOND EDITION

Zoltan Kövecses, Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary

Combining up-to-date scholarship with clear and accessible language and helpful exercises, *Metaphor: A Practical Introduction* is an invaluable resource for all readers interested in metaphor. This second edition includes two new chapters—on 'metaphors in discourse' and 'metaphor and emotion'—along with new exercises, responses to criticism and recent developments in the field, and revised student exercises, tables, and figures.

April 2010 | 396 pages | OUP USA

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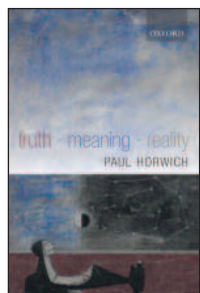
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suitable as a student text



Truth — Meaning — Reality

Paul Horwich, New York University



Truth — Meaning — Reality presents a revolutionary philosophy: a broad and unified deflationism that encompasses language, thought, knowledge, and reality. Horwich's story begins with his minimalist view of truth — paving the way to an account of meaning as use. And this combination of ideas then yields a perspective from

which long-standing debates in epistemology and metaphysics can finally be settled. The book's fourteen essays constitute a coherent and complete expression of this three-pronged philosophy. Each of them is self-standing. But they have been revised and arranged so as to reveal the power and plausibility of the overall position.

January 2010 | 352 pages

978-0-19-926891-7, PAPERBACK

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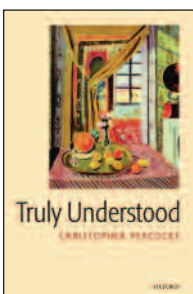
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NEW IN PAPERBACK

Truly Understood

Christopher Peacocke, Columbia University



In *Truly Understood*, Christopher Peacocke argues that truth and reference have a much deeper role in the explanation of meaning and understanding than has hitherto been appreciated. Examination of specific concepts shows that a grasp of these concepts has to be characterized in terms of reference, identity, and relations to the world.

Peacocke develops a positive general theory of understanding based on the idea that concepts are individuated by their fundamental reference rules, which contrasts sharply with conceptual-role, inferentialist, and pragmatist approaches to meaning. He treats thought about the material world, about places and times, and about the self within the framework of this general account, and extends the theory to explain the normative dimensions of content, which he believes are founded in the network of connections between concepts and the level of reference and truth. In the second part of the book, Peacocke explores the application of this account to some problematic mental phenomena, including the conception of many subjects of experience, concepts of conscious states, mental action, and our ability to think about the contents of our own and others' mental states.

April 2010 | 356 pages

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NEW IN PAPERBACK

LOT 2

The Language of Thought Revisited

Jerry A. Fodor, Rutgers University

'It is a rare contemporary philosopher whom one looks forward to reading. Fodor is such an exception... long may Fodor enlighten and entertain us.'

John Collins, *The Philosophers' Magazine*

Jerry Fodor presents a new development of his famous Language of Thought hypothesis, which has since the 1970s been at the centre of interdisciplinary debate about how the mind works. Fodor defends and extends the groundbreaking idea that thinking is couched in a symbolic system realized in the brain. This idea is central to the representational theory of mind which Fodor has established as a key reference point in modern philosophy, psychology, and cognitive science. The foundation stone of our present cognitive science is Turing's suggestion that cognitive processes are not associations but computations; and computation requires a language of thought.

So the latest on the Language of Thought hypothesis, from its progenitor, promises to be a landmark in the study of the mind. *LOT 2* offers a more cogent presentation and a fuller explication of Fodor's distinctive account of the mind, with various intriguing new features. The central role of compositionality in the representational theory of mind is revealed: most of what we know about concepts follows from the compositionality of thoughts. Fodor shows the necessity of a referentialist account of the content of intentional states, and of an atomistic account of the individuation of concepts. Not least among the new developments is Fodor's identification and persecution of pragmatism as the leading source of error in the study of the mind today.

LOT 2 sees Fodor advance undaunted towards the ultimate goal of a theory of the cognitive mind, and in particular a theory of the intentionality of cognition. No one who works on the mind can ignore Fodor's views, expressed in the coruscating and provocative style which has delighted and disconcerted countless readers over the years.

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Available in...

NEW IN PAPERBACK

Relativism and Monadic Truth

Herman Cappelen, University of St Andrews and University of Oslo, and **John Hawthorne**, University of Oxford

Relativism has dominated many intellectual circles, past and present, but the twentieth century saw it banished to the fringes of mainstream analytic philosophy. Of late, however, it is making something of a comeback within that loosely configured tradition, a comeback that attempts to capitalize on some important ideas in foundational semantics. *Relativism and Monadic Truth* aims not merely to combat analytic relativism but also to combat the foundational ideas in semantics that led to its revival. Doing so requires a proper understanding of the significance of possible worlds semantics, an examination of the relation between truth and the flow of time, an account of putatively relevant data from attitude and speech act reporting, and a careful treatment of various operators. Throughout, Herman Cappelen and John Hawthorne contrast relativism with a view according to which the contents of thought and talk are propositions that instantiate the fundamental monadic properties of truth simpliciter and falsity simpliciter. Such propositions, they argue, are the semantic values of sentences (relative to context), the objects of illocutionary acts, and, unsurprisingly, the objects of propositional attitudes.

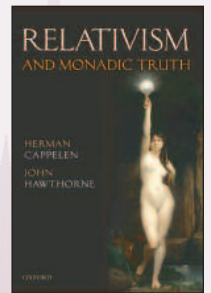
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Available in...



Cuts and Clouds

Vagueness, its Nature and its Logic

Edited by **Richard Dietz**, University of Leuven and University of St Andrews, and **Sebastiano Moruzzi**, University of Bologna and University of St Andrews

Vagueness is a familiar but deeply puzzling aspect of the relation between language and the world. It is highly controversial what the nature of vagueness is —

a feature of the way we represent reality in language, or rather a feature of reality itself? May even relations like identity or parthood be affected by vagueness? Sorites arguments suggest that vague terms are either inconsistent or have a sharp boundary. The account we give of such paradoxes plays a pivotal role for our understanding of natural languages. If our reasoning involves any vague concepts, is it safe from contradiction? Do vague concepts really lack any sharp boundary? If not, why are we reluctant to accept the existence of any sharp boundary for them? And what rules of inference can we validly apply, if we reason in vague terms? *Cuts and Clouds* presents the latest work towards a clearer understanding of these old puzzles about the nature and logic of vagueness. The collection offers a stimulating series of original essays on these and related issues by some of the world's leading experts.

February 2010 | 600 pages

978-0-19-957038-6, HARDBACK £65.00



Available in...

Assertion

New Philosophical Essays

Edited by **Jessica Brown**, University of St Andrews, and **Herman Cappelen**, University of St Andrews, and University of Oslo

Assertion is a fundamental feature of language. This volume will be the place to look for anyone interested in current work on the topic. Philosophers of language and epistemologists join forces to elucidate what kind of speech act assertion is, particularly in light of relativist views of truth, and how assertion is governed by epistemic norms.

October 2010 | 296 pages

978-0-19-957300-4, HARDBACK £37.50

New Essays on Singular Thought

Edited by **Robin Jeshion**, University of California, Riverside

New Essays on Singular Thought presents ten new, specially written essays on an issue central to philosophy of mind, language, and perception: the nature of our thought about the external world.

Is our thought about objects in the world always descriptive, mediated by our conceptions of those objects? Or is some of our thought somehow more direct, singular, associated more intimately with our perceptual, linguistic, and socially mediated relations to them? Leading experts in the field contributing to this volume make the case for the singularity of thought and debate a broad spectrum of issues it raises, including the structure of singular thought, the role of acquaintance in perception- and communication-based reference, the semantics of fictional and mythical terms, and the merits of epistemic, cognitive, and linguistic conditions on singular thought. Their essays explore new directions for future research and will be an important resource for anyone working at the interface of semantics and mental representation.

May 2010 | 336 pages

978-0-19-956788-1, HARDBACK £37.50

Truth-Conditional Pragmatics

François Recanati, Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Paris

François Recanati argues against the traditional understanding of the semantics/pragmatics divide and puts forward a radical alternative. Through half a dozen case studies, he shows that what an utterance says cannot be neatly separated from what the speaker means. In particular, the speaker's meaning endows words with senses that are tailored to the situation of utterance and depart from the conventional meanings carried by the words in isolation. This phenomenon of 'pragmatic modulation' must be taken into account in theorizing about semantic content, for it interacts with the grammar-driven process of semantic composition. Because of that interaction, Recanati argues, the content of a sentence always depends upon the context in which it is used. This claim defines Contextualism, a view which has attracted considerable attention in recent years, and of which Recanati is one of the main proponents.

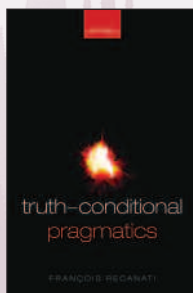
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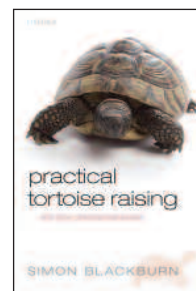
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Practical Tortoise Raising

And Other Philosophical Essays



Simon Blackburn, University of Cambridge and University of North Carolina

Simon Blackburn presents a selection of his philosophical essays from 1995 to 2010. He offers engaging and illuminating discussions of various problems which arise when such familiar notions as representation, truth, reason, and assertion are

applied in the sphere of practical thought. It is puzzling how our thinking gets to grip with such things as values and norms. Blackburn explores how we can try to understand what we say in terms of what we are doing when we say it. He investigates how propositions interact with linguistic expressions whose primary function is identified in terms of actions performed in expressing commitments with them, when those commitments are thought of in practical rather than descriptive terms. He broadens his investigation from semantic questions to wider issues of pluralism, pragmatism, philosophy of mind, and the nature of practical reasoning.

September 2010 | 320 pages

978-0-19-954805-7, HARDBACK

£25.00

After Herder

Philosophy of Language in the German Tradition



Michael N. Forster, University of Chicago

Philosophy of language has for some time now been the very core of the discipline of philosophy. But where did it begin? Frege has sometimes been identified as its father, but in fact its origins lie much further back, in a tradition that arose in eighteenth-century Germany.

Michael Forster explores that tradition. He also makes a case that the most important thinker within that tradition was J. G. Herder. It was Herder who established such fundamental principles in the philosophy of language as that thought essentially depends on language and that meaning consists in the usage of words. It was he who on that basis revolutionized the theory of interpretation ('hermeneutics') and the theory of translation. And it was he who played the pivotal role in founding such whole new disciplines concerned with language as anthropology and linguistics. In the course of developing these historical points, this book also shows that Herder and his tradition are in many ways superior to dominant trends in more recent philosophy of language: deeper in their principles and broader in their focus.

July 2010 | 496 pages

978-0-19-922811-9, HARDBACK

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NEW IN PAPERBACK

Being For

Evaluating the Semantic Program of Expressivism

Mark Schroeder, University of Southern California

'An extremely impressive book equally remarkable for the power of its arguments, for its clarity and precision, and for its striking inventiveness and methodological rigour... In short, this is an absolutely terrific book. No one who wants to think carefully about the semantic program of expressivism can afford to give it anything less than their most serious attention.'

Ralph Wedgwood, Analysis Reviews

Expressivism — the sophisticated contemporary incarnation of the noncognitivist research program of Ayer, Stevenson, and Hare — is no longer the province of metaethicists alone. Its comprehensive view about the nature of both normative language and normative thought has also recently been applied to many topics elsewhere in philosophy — including logic, probability, mental and linguistic content, knowledge, epistemic modals, belief, the a priori, and even quantifiers.

Yet the semantic commitments of expressivism are still poorly understood and have not been very far developed. As argued within, expressivists have not yet even managed to solve the 'negation problem' — to explain why atomic normative sentences are inconsistent with their negations. As a result, it is far from clear that expressivism even could be true, let alone whether it is.

Being For seeks to evaluate the semantic commitments of expressivism, by showing how an expressivist semantics would work, what it can do, and what kind of assumptions would be required, in order for it to do it. Building on a highly general understanding of the basic ideas of expressivism, it argues that expressivists can solve the negation problem — but only in one kind of way. It shows how this insight paves the way for an explanatorily powerful, constructive expressivist semantics, which solves many of what have been taken to be the deepest problems for expressivism. But it also argues that no account with these advantages can be generalized to deal with constructions like tense, modals, or binary quantifiers. Expressivism, the book argues, is coherent and interesting, but false.

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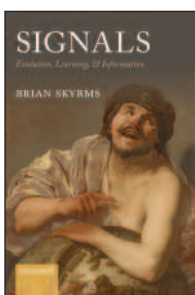
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