



CRITIQUE

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Editor's Preface

Welcome to these special conference proceedings of Critique. Inside are six student essays which were presented over the 10th and 11th of June 2017 at the Durham University Philosophy Society's annual undergraduate conference.

I will now take the time to summarise the student content of the journal:

'An Alternative Approach to Mathematical Ontology' — Amber argues in this piece that nominalism and realism both fail to satisfy the twin horns of the Benacerraf dilemma thanks to their appeal to a truth-maker meta-ontological framework. As such, she defends a deflationary meta-ontological framework fit to replace them both, which she undergirds with a Wittgensteinian approach to truth. This, she argues, should satisfactorily solve the dilemma.

'Coercion and Sexual Consent: A Discussion on Legitimacy' — In this piece, Kate argues that non-forceful pressure to have sex undermines the validity of sexual consent when it is coercive. To do so, she motivates three conditions for coercion from Conly, whilst illustrating why Conly's fourth criteria, illegitimacy, is not necessary for coercion to take place. She does this by employing three instructive thought experiments.

'The Limits of Dialogue and the Violence in Debate' — in this piece, Frankie critiques the epistemic violence of heteronormative philosophical arguments. She considers such violence by reference to the 'bathroom debate', concerning trans-individuals, and who sets the standards for rational debates. It should be noted that, although this article does not meet our usual academic standards, the editors have decided that as Frankie valuably contributes to the meta-debate surrounding the discipline, it was nonetheless a philosophically interesting piece and worthy of being included in these special proceedings.

'When, if at all, is assisted dying permissible for psychiatric patients?' — Alex's piece reflects on the increasing opportunities that exist for psychiatric patients to end their own lives and investigates whether such practices should be encouraged. In light of evidence suggesting that depression-like symptoms can be reversed, she argues that, despite the fact that psychiatric patients are capable of rationally requesting assisted suicide, such requests should not be accepted by the medical community.

'In what ways, if any, does Evil-Doing differ from Wrong-Doing?' — this piece by Tony dialectically explores two approaches to differentiating the nature of evil from more general wrong-doing. Beginning with a qualitative approach, he then goes on to explore the quantitative differences between the two, ultimately suggesting that although evil-doing is a more intense form of the species of wrong-doing, the two are essentially similar.

'Orwellian Nationalism as the Liberal Democratic Convention' — written whilst I was studying in Hong Kong, this piece explores the theoretical underpinnings of Western democracies by way of reference to both 'Brexit' and the Trump Presidency. Modifying Jiwei Ci's work on agnostic egalitarianism, I try to lessen capitalism's totalising grip on the liberal democratic form of the good by drawing on Orwell's notion of nationalism.

I wish to note that although this proceeding of the journal is formally published by myself, submission selections (including that of my own paper, above) and the vast majority of the editing was carried out by my predecessor, Nathan Davies. My changes are almost all purely cosmetic. This collaborative edition marks the handover of the journal for the new academic year or 2017/18. Henceforth, I take on all responsibility for the content of future editions of *Critique*.

Along similar lines, I wish to take a moment to introduce my new colleagues. Clara Senior joins me as Deputy Editor, along with Matthew Gibson in the role of Web Editor and Assistant Editor. We look forward to publishing our first full issue together at the beginning of Epiphany Term. In the meantime, we are all hard at work, as *Critique* is getting a facelift and a rejuvenated online presence. Details will follow in the next edition. For now, our new logo and covers are your first glimpse of what we have planned.

Finally, I will end with the customary administrative duties. Any and all requests for reproduction of the work contained in this journal should be addressed to dups.critique@gmail.com. Any submissions for consideration in future issues should also be sent to the same address. Criterion for submission of essays is that they are under 5,000 words in length and must have received a first-class (or very high second-class) grade. As for other contributions (poems, short stories etc.) the word limit is the only criteria. The journal is now accepting short-form content for on the website too, details of which can be found on our website and social media accounts. Be sure to also follow the journal's Twitter https://twitter.com/DUPS_Critique and 'Like' us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/critiquejournal/> for updates on future issues.

Thank you for reading. I hope you enjoy it.



Charles H. Smith

Editor-in-Chief, Michaelmas 2017

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