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Advanced Seminar in Objectivist Studies

June 25–27, 2003

Bentley College, Waltham, Mass.

Wednesday, June 25

Morning

No Activities Scheduled

Afternoon

3:00–5:00	Registration
5:30–6:00	Orientation
6:00–6:50	Dinner
7:00–8:00	Discussion: TOC and Academic Activism

Thursday, June 26

Morning

7:30–9:00	Breakfast
9:00–Noon	Diana Mertz Hsieh: Analytics on the Mind: An Objectivist Survey of Analytic Philosophy of Mind
Noon–1:30	Lunch

Afternoon

1:30–4:00	Roger Bissell: Mind and Will as Objective Phenomena: The Ontological Status of Introspective Data
6:00–6:50	Dinner
7:00–9:00	Adam Reed: Object-Oriented Programming and Objectivist Epistemology

Friday, June 27

Morning

7:30–9:00	Breakfast
9:00–Noon	Stephen Boydston: Universals and Measurement

Afternoon

Noon–1:30	Lunch
1:30–4:00	Fred Seddon: Kant on Faith
7:00–10:00	Final Dinner

Analytics on the Mind: An Objectivist Survey of Analytic Philosophy of Mind

Diana Mertz Hsieh

Although debates over the nature of the mind have raged in analytic philosophy of mind for decades, Objectivism largely lacks not only a theory of mind, but also an active discussion of the subject. The common strategy of adopting views from analytic philosophy of mind is problematic, given the substantial differences between the principles and methods of Objectivism and those of analytic philosophy. This paper attempts to advance the Objectivist debate on philosophy of mind through a survey of analytic philosophy of mind and a sketch of a theory

of mind consistent with Objectivism.

Diana Mertz Hsieh is a graduate student in Philosophy at the University of Colorado at Boulder and a regular speaker on Objectivism at TOC's Summer Seminar.

Mind and Will as Objective Phenomena The Ontological Status of Introspective Data

Roger Bissell

This essay seeks to apply the method used in Leonard Peikoff's analysis of the ontological status of sense data to identify the nature of

introspection. Sense data are neither intrinsic nor subjective but objective, and the same will be shown to be true of our awareness of mind, will, and the various processes associated with them. In preparation for this analysis, an attempt will be made to formulate with greater clarity Rand's trichotomy of intrinsic-subjective-objective, and in so doing to show that it has valid application to non-volitional phenomena.

Roger Bissell is a graduate student in Psychology at California Coast University. His essays on philosophy have appeared in *The Journal of Ayn Rand Studies*, *Objectivity*, and *Reason Papers*.

Applications due April 21, 2003. See reverse for full details.

Object-Oriented Programming and Objectivist Epistemology

Adam Reed

The architectures of knowledge representation in Object-Oriented Programming and in Ayn Rand's Objectivist Epistemology are exactly isomorphic, and were first proposed at about the same time. According to Alan Kay and other pioneers of Object-Oriented Programming, these similarities did not result from mutual influence; rather they resulted from the need to represent knowledge, in both systems, in accordance with the same facts of reality. Thanks to the isomorphism of knowledge representation in the two systems, logical techniques developed in the context of object-oriented programming, such as scope-tracking and inheritance, are directly usable and useful in objective logic based on Objectivist epistemology.

Adam Reed is Associate Professor of Information Systems at Cal State LA. He holds a Ph.D. in Mathematical Psychology from the University of Oregon, as well as degrees in Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, and Biology from MIT.

Universals and Measurement

Stephen Boydston

Boydston argues that Ayn Rand's measurement-omission analysis of concepts implies a distinctive magnitude structure for metaphysics. This is structure, and constraint on possibility, additional to logical structure and constraint, yet as fully ranging as logic through all the sciences and common experience. This paper uncovers this distinctive magnitude structure, characterizing it by its automorphisms, by its location among the mathematical categories, and by the types of measurement it affords. It uncovers a structure to universals implicit in Rand's theory that is additional to recursive structure.

Stephen Boydston has B.S. degrees in Physics and Engineering and has undertaken graduate studies in Physics and Philosophy. He was the founder and editor of the philosophy journal *Objectivity* (1990–98). Visit www.bomis.com/objectivity for back issues.

Kant on Belief

Fred Seddon

This paper examines Immanuel Kant's oft-quoted sentence "I have therefore found it necessary to deny knowledge in order to make room for faith." After discussing what Objectivists mean by *knowledge* and *faith*, the paper turns to the text itself. It argues that what Kant had in mind when he wrote that sentence bears little if any resemblance to what Objectivists impute to him.

Fred Seddon, Ph.D., teaches Philosophy at four universities (including Duquesne and Penn State) in southwestern Pennsylvania. He is an associate member of the Center for the Philosophy of Science at the University of Pittsburgh and the President (since 1988) of the West Virginia Philosophical Society.



About the Advanced Seminar

The Advanced Seminar focuses on developing pathbreaking new scholarly writings concerning Objectivism, the philosophy founded by Ayn Rand. Each session is an extended small-group discussion of a scholarly essay, preceded by a short summary presentation by the author. Participants will receive the papers by early June and should read them carefully in advance. They may be asked to prepare comments. TOC Senior Fellow William Thomas administers the seminar and will moderate the discussions. TOC Executive Director David Kelley will take part in the discussions.

The Advanced Seminar is open to a limited number of applicants. Participants should possess a systematic understanding of Objectivism and a professional interest in developing and applying objective methods of philosophic analysis. For students, recent graduates, and faculty there is neither a fee nor room and board charges. Non-students pay only for room and board. Non-student room and board rates are \$235(\$175), per person, for an air-conditioned dormitory single (double) with a shared bath. Seminar board includes breakfast and lunch on June 28. Participants are responsible for their travel to the Boston area and their incidental expenses. If you plan to park on campus you will need to sign up in advance for a parking permit.

Advanced Seminar Application

Please complete the application that is included in the TOC Summer Seminar registration form, or send a letter, e-mail, or fax to TOC answering the following questions. Please be sure to include your **name, age, address, email, and telephone number(s)** with your application.

1. Please tell us your occupation and place of study or work.
2. Please outline your formal educational background, including your academic training in philosophy.
3. Please describe the extent of your familiarity with Objectivism, including the major works you have read and courses you have taken.
4. What scholarly writing have you done on philosophical topics? Please give us a brief list (no more than ten), starting with the works you deem most significant. Please give bibliographic information for your published work.
5. What are your plans for future scholarship?
6. What are the two issues in Objectivism that you would most like to see scholars address? Why are these of interest to you?

Applications must be received by April 21, 2003. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by May 6.