

Intentional Action Directed-Independent Study

Directed Individual Study: Intentional Action, Practical Knowledge, and Practical Reason

Weekly Commitments

- Between 70-100 pgs of reading
- 1 page write-up including,
 - A statement of the thesis of the paper
 - A thumbnail sketch of the paper's central argument
 - At least one substantive question or objection per paper
 - At least two connections between the reading and previous work
- 1 hour and a half meeting (Zoom or in-person) in which
 - The student summarizes the author's position and argument.
 - Each substantive question and objection is discussed.

Semesterly Commitments

- The student will construct a weekly reading plan with (a) location, (b) modality, and (c) times the reading will be done. It will include three habits designed to ensure the reading will actually occur (e.g., no phone in reading-zone). This plan is due May 17th.
- At the following dates, the elements of a paper project will be due:
 1. August 1: Topic Proposal
 - a. At least three paragraphs describing (a) a determinate philosophical question or debate (b) the paper's proposed solution to the question or intervention in the debate, and (c) a full plan for when and how one will work on the rest of the elements of the paper.
 2. August 15: Annotated Bibliography
 3. August 30: Outline
 4. September 15: Complete First Draft
 5. Comments returned by Sept. 30
 6. October 15: Complete Rewrite
 7. October 16-20: Presentation to Faculty
 8. October 30: Substantive edits in light of faculty feedback.
 9. Nov. 1-Dec 1: Writing feedback, rewrites, and edits.

Reading List

Roots of the Conversation

Week 1

Anscombe's Intention 1957 1-67

Anton Ford "The Arithmetic of Intention" 2015

Week 2

Anscombe's Intention 67-94

Davidson's "Actions, Reasons and Causes" 1963

Week 3

von Wright "On So-Called Practical Inference" 1972

Anscombe's "Practical Inference" (on von Wright)

Frankfurt's "The Problem of Action" 1974

Week 4

Davidson's "Intending" 1978

Searle "Intentionality of Intentional Action" 1980

Bratman's "Two Faces of Intention" 1984

Week 5

Kavka's "Toxin Puzzle" 1983

Velleman "What happens when someone acts?" 1992

Anselm Muller "Mental Teleology" 1992

Shah "How Action Governs Intention" 2008

Week 6

Mele and Moser's "Intentional Action" 1992

Knobe's "Intentional Action and Side-Effects of Ordinary Language" 2003 (Optional)

Knobe's "The Concept of Intentional Action: A Case Study in the use of Folk Psychology" 2006

Practical Knowledge and Intentional Action

Week 7

Setiya "Explaining Action" 2003

Moran "Anscombe on Practical Knowledge" 2004

Paul "How we know what we are doing" 2009

Week 8

Setiya "Practical Knowledge" 2008

Paul "Intention, Belief, and Wishful Thinking" 2009

Setiya "Practical Knowledge Revisited" 2009

Week 9

Hieronymi "The Will as Reason" 2009
Hieronymi "Reasons for Action" 2011
Anton Ford "Practical Generality" 2011

Week 10

Frost "On the very idea of direction of fit" 2014
John Schwenkler "Understanding Practical Knowledge" 2015
Ford "The Province of Human Agency" 2016

Week 11

Marusic and Schwenkler "Intending is Believing" 2017
Campbell "An epistemology for practical knowledge" 2018
Marcus "Practical knowledge as knowledge of a normative judgment" 2018
O'Connell "I Do What Happens" 2020

Week 12

Frost "A metaphysics for practical knowledge" 2019
Neta "The Basing Relation" 2019

Week 13

Pineros Glasscock "Practical Knowledge and Luminosity" 2020
Beddor and Pavese "Practical Knowledge Without Luminosity" 2023 (?)
Shepard and Carter "Knowledge, Practical Knowledge,
and Intentional Action" 2023
Mikayla Kelley "Separating Action and Knowledge" 2024