

Philosophy of Mind: Essay Two

Requirements

You are to submit one 8–10 page research paper on Friday 2 May, addressing one and only one of the questions listed below. An electronic copy of the paper must be submitted by email to bradley.weslake@rochester.edu.

Guidelines

Essay guidelines are available here: <http://goo.gl/jrx25>

Questions

- State the thesis of *anomalous monism*, and explain how it is different from the *identity theory*. Explain and evaluate the objection that anomalous monism leads to epiphenomenalism (Kim 2010; Yalowitz 2012; Robb and Heil 2013, §5).
- According to the *exclusion argument*, if mental events are not identical to physical events then they can not cause physical events. Explain and evaluate this argument (Kim 2010; Robb and Heil 2013, §6).
- State the thesis of *content externalism*, and explain the argument for the position based on the twin-earth thought experiment (Kim 2010; Putnam 1975b). Explain one problem for content externalism (Kim 2010; Lau and Deutsch 2014, §§6–7).
- Nagel (1974) argues that there are facts about bat consciousness that we cannot grasp, and that we do not “at present have any conception of how [physicalism] might be true” (p. 446). Explain and evaluate these arguments, and explain how they are related (Akins 1993; Kim 2010; Nagel 1974).

References

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