SEMINAR: GROUND

Description

> We will discuss questions about the notion of metaphysical ground, including: Do we need a notion like ground? What is the best concept in the vicinity? (Fact-grounding versus entity-grounding versus truth-making versus structure.) What if anything grounds ground? Is grounding biconditional or conditional? Are nonfundamental levels "just talk"? How does grounding relate to reduction? To the autonomy of the special sciences? To the explanatory gap? To the open question argument and related issues in metaethics?

Requirements

> Either i) two short (10–15 page) papers, due 3/26 and 5/17, or ii) one term paper (20–30 pages), draft due 4/16, final version due 5/17. Please clear paper topics with me. I'll suggest some topics in class.

Bibliography

> Further readings on ground are listed here: `http://tedsider.org/teaching/ground/ground_bibliography.pdf`.

Tentative schedule and readings

1/22 Introduction. Rosen (2010, §1–§7); Fine (2012, §1.1–§1.2); Bennett (2013, chapter 1); Schaffer (2009); Correia and Schnieder (2012, Introduction). (Useful background: Fine (2001, 1994).)

1/29 Fact/operator-grounding. Fine (2012, §1.4–§1.5); Rosen (2010); Sider (2011, §8.1–§8.3); and Fine (2001) if you have time

2/5 Entity-grounding and truthmaking. Schaffer (2009); Cameron (2011); Sider (2011, §8.4–§8.7); Fine (2012, §1.3); Rodriguez-Pereyra (2005)

2/12 catch-up

2/19 Linguistic ground 1, Metaphysical semantics. Sider (2011, chapters 1, 7)

References

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