

Rule-Following and Realism

Gary Ebbs

Rule Following And Realism

Frank B. Farrell



Rule Following And Realism:

Rule-Following and Realism Gary Ebbs, 2009-07-01 Through detailed and trenchant criticism of standard interpretations of some of the key arguments in analytical philosophy over the last sixty years this book arrives at a new conception of the proper starting point and task of the philosophy of language To understand central topics in the philosophy of language and mind Gary Ebbs contends we must investigate them from our perspective as participants in shared linguistic practices but our efforts at adopting this participant perspective are limited by our lingering loyalties to metaphysical realism the view that we can make objective assertions only if we can grasp metaphysically independent truth conditions and scientific naturalism the view that it is only within science that reality can be identified and described In *Rule Following and Realism* Ebbs works to loosen the hold of these views by exposing their roots and developing a different way of looking at our linguistic practices Reexamining and extending influential arguments by Saul Kripke W V Quine Rudolf Carnap Hilary Putnam and Tyler Burge Ebbs presents systematic redescriptions of our linguistic practices that transform our understanding of such central topics as rule following the analytic synthetic distinction realism anti individualism the division of linguistic labor self knowledge and skepticism

Rule-following and Meaning Alexander Miller, Crispin Wright, 2014-12-18 The rule following debate in its concern with the metaphysics and epistemology of linguistic meaning and mental content goes to the heart of the most fundamental questions of contemporary philosophy of mind and language This volume gathers together the most important contributions to the topic including papers by Simon Blackburn Paul Boghossian Graeme Forbes Warren Goldfarb Paul Horwich John McDowell Colin McGinn Ruth Millikan Philip Pettit George Wilson Crispin Wright and Jose Zalabardo The debate has centred on Saul Kripke's reading of the rule following sections in Wittgenstein and his consequent posing of a sceptical paradox that threatens our everyday notions of linguistic meaning and mental content These essays are attempts to respond to this challenge and represent some of the most important work in contemporary theory of meaning With an introductory essay and a comprehensive guide to further reading this book is an excellent resource for courses in philosophy of mind philosophy of language Wittgenstein and metaphysics as well as for all philosophers linguists and cognitive scientists with interests in these areas

Rule-following, Response-dependence and Realism Jussi Haukioja, 2000 **The Rule-Following Paradox and its Implications for Metaphysics** Jody Azzouni, 2017-03-08 This monograph presents Azzouni's new approach to the rule following paradox His solution leaves intact an isolated individual's capacity to follow rules and it simultaneously avoids replacing the truth conditions for meaning talk with mere assertability conditions for that talk Kripke's influential version of Wittgenstein's rule following paradox and Wittgenstein's views more generally on the contrary make rule following practices and assertions about those practices subject to community norms without which they lose their cogency Azzouni summarizes and develops Kripke's original version of Wittgenstein's rule following paradox to make salient the linchpin assumptions of the paradox By doing so Azzouni reveals how compelling Kripke's earlier work on

the paradox was Objections raised over the years by Fodor Forbes Ginsborg Goldfarb Tait Wright and many others are all shown to fail No straight solution a solution that denies an assumption of the paradox can be made to work Azzouni illustrates this in detail by showing that a popular family of straight solutions due to Lewis and refined by Williams reference magnetism fail as well And yet an overlooked sceptical solution is still available in logical space Azzouni describes a series of disposition meaning private languages that he shows can be successfully used by a population of speakers to communicate with one another despite their ideolectical character The same sorts of languages enable solitary Robinson Crusoes to survive and flourish in their island habitats These languages sufficiently refined have the same properties normal human languages have and this is the key to solving the rule following paradox without sacrificing the individual's authority over her self imposed rules or her ability to follow those rules Azzouni concludes this unusual monograph by uncovering a striking resemblance between the rule following paradox and Hume's problem of induction he shows the rule following paradox to be a corollary of Hume's problem that arises when the problem of induction is applied to an individual's own abilities to follow rules The book is clearly and engagingly written and the conclusions are well argued for Depressingly well argued for in the case of Chapter 3 as I've always been partial to Lewisian responses to Putnam's model theoretic argument I'm rethinking that now And the proposed solution to the rule following paradox really is novel Joshua Brown Gustavus Adolphus College

Ethics in the Wake of Wittgenstein Benjamin De Mesel, Oskari Kuusela, 2019-04-25 This book brings together essays from leading scholars who rather than taking a strictly exegetical approach attempt to show how discussions in moral philosophy can benefit from Wittgenstein's later philosophical work The essays in this volume make the argument that Wittgenstein's relevance for moral philosophy depends not only on his views about ethics but also on the methods he introduces on his views on the nature of philosophy and philosophical problems and on the insights into language developed in his philosophy They also focus on the Wittgensteinian tradition in moral philosophy and its relation to more mainstream analytic moral philosophy addressing how several prominent philosophers use these ideas and methods in their work Ethics in the Wake of Wittgenstein seeks to answer the following question Can we apply Wittgenstein's ways of dealing with problems in logic philosophy of language epistemology philosophy of mind and philosophy of mathematics to moral philosophy as well It will be of interest to Wittgenstein scholars and those working on current debates in moral philosophy metaethics and normative ethics

Truth and Objectivity Crispin Wright, 2009-07-01 Crispin Wright offers an original perspective on the place of realism in philosophical inquiry He proposes a radically new framework for discussing the claims of the realists and the anti realists This framework rejects the classical deflationary conception of truth yet allows both disputants to respect the intuition that judgments whose status they contest are at least semantically fitted for truth and may often justifiably be regarded as true In the course of his argument Wright offers original critical discussions of many central concerns of philosophers interested in realism including the deflationary conception of truth internal realist truth scientific

realism and the theoreticity of observation and the role of moral states of affairs in explanations of moral beliefs **Mutual Misunderstanding** Talbot J. Taylor, 1992-07-30 Do others understand what we say or write Do we understand them Theorists of language and interpretation claim to be more concerned with questions about what we understand and how we understand rather than with the logically prior question whether we understand each other An affirmative answer to the latter question is apparently taken for granted However in Mutual Misunderstanding Talbot J Taylor shows that the sceptical doubts about communicational understanding do in fact have a profoundly important if as yet unacknowledged function in the construction of theories of language and interpretation Mutual Misunderstanding thus presents a strikingly original analysis of the rhetorical patterns underlying Western linguistic thought as exemplified in the works of John Locke Jacques Derrida Gottlob Frege Jonathan Culler Noam Chomsky Ferdinand de Saussure H Paul Grice Michael Dummet Stanley Fish Alfred Schutz Barbara Herrnstein Smith Harold Garfinkel and others This analysis reveals how by the combined effect of appeals to commonsense and anxieties about implications of relativism scepticism has a determining role in the discursive development of a number of the intellectual disciplines making up the human sciences today including critical theory literary hermeneutics philosophy of language and logic communication theory discourse and conversation analysis pragmatics stylistics and linguistics Consequently this provocative study will be of value to readers from a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds Realistic Rationalism Jerrold J. Katz, 1997-12-08 Jerrold Katz develops a new philosophical position integrating realism and rationalism In Realistic Rationalism Jerrold J Katz develops a new philosophical position integrating realism and rationalism Realism here means that the objects of study in mathematics and other formal sciences are abstract rationalism means that our knowledge of them is not empirical Katz uses this position to meet the principal challenges to realism In exposing the flaws in criticisms of the antirealists he shows that realists can explain knowledge of abstract objects without supposing we have causal contact with them that numbers are determinate objects and that the standard counterexamples to the abstract concrete distinction have no force Generalizing the account of knowledge used to meet the challenges to realism he develops a rationalist and non naturalist account of philosophical knowledge and argues that it is preferable to contemporary naturalist and empiricist accounts The book illuminates a wide range of philosophical issues including the nature of necessity the distinction between the formal and natural sciences empiricist holism the structure of ontology and philosophical skepticism Philosophers will use this fresh treatment of realism and rationalism as a starting point for new directions in their own research **Subjectivity, Realism, and Postmodernism** Frank B. Farrell, 1996-06-28 This unusually accessible account of recent Anglo American philosophy focuses on how that philosophy has challenged deeply held notions of subjectivity mind and language The book is designed on a broad canvas in which recent arguments are placed in a historical context in particular they are related to medieval philosophy and German idealism The author then explores such topics as mental content moral realism realism and antirealism and the character of subjectivity Much of the book is

devoted to an investigation of Donald Davidson's philosophy and there is also a sustained critique of the position of Richard Rorty. A final chapter defends the realist position against objections from postmodern thought. As a rigorous and historically sensitive account of recent philosophy, this book should enjoy a wide readership among philosophers of many different persuasions, literary theorists and social scientists who have been influenced by postmodern thought.

The Realist Hope

Christopher J. Insole, 2016-02-24

Taking into consideration analytical, continental, historical, postmodern and contemporary thinkers, Insole provides a powerful defence of a realist construal of religious discourse. Insole argues that anti-realism tends towards absolutism and hubris. Where truth is exhausted by our beliefs about truth, there is no conceptual space for doubting those beliefs; only a conception of truth as absolute, given and accessible can guarantee the very humility, sense of fallibility and sensitivity to difference that the anti-realist rightly values. Cutting through some of the tired and well-rehearsed debates in this area, Insole provides a fresh perspective on approaches influenced by Wittgenstein, Kant and apophatic theology. The defence of realism offered is unusual in being both analytically precise and theologically sensitive, with a view to some of the wider and less well-explored cultural, ethical and political implications of the debate.

Reviewing **Rule Following And Realism**: Unlocking the Spellbinding Force of Linguistics

In a fast-paced world fueled by information and interconnectivity, the spellbinding force of linguistics has acquired newfound prominence. Its capacity to evoke emotions, stimulate contemplation, and stimulate metamorphosis is actually astonishing. Within the pages of "**Rule Following And Realism**," an enthralling opus penned by a highly acclaimed wordsmith, readers attempt an immersive expedition to unravel the intricate significance of language and its indelible imprint on our lives. Throughout this assessment, we shall delve in to the book is central motifs, appraise its distinctive narrative style, and gauge its overarching influence on the minds of its readers.

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