

Chapter 1 : Conditionals : Frank Jackson :

This collection of readings introduces the reader to the most interesting current work on conditionals. Particular attention is paid to possible worlds semantics for conditionals; the role of conditional probability in helping us to understand conditionals; implicature and the material conditional; and subjective versus indicative conditionals.

Biography[edit] Frank Cameron Jackson was born in He taught at the University of Adelaide for a year in In , he became chair of the philosophy department at Monash University. He now has a half-time appointment at Princeton University as well as a half-time appointment at ANU. Jackson delivered the John Locke lectures at the University of Oxford in His father had delivered the lectures, making them the first father-son pair to do so. In philosophy of mind, Jackson is known, among other things, for the knowledge argument against physicalism –the view that the universe is entirely physical i. Jackson phrases the thought experiment as follows: Will she learn anything or not? It seems just obvious that she will learn something about the world and our visual experience of it. But then is it inescapable that her previous knowledge was incomplete. But she had all the physical information. Ergo there is more to have than that, and Physicalism is false. As a side note, this thought-experiment was dramatised in the three-part Channel 4 documentary "Brainspotting. Jackson used the knowledge argument, as well as other arguments, to establish a sort of dualism , according to which certain mental states, especially qualitative ones, are non-physical. The view that Jackson urged was a modest version of epiphenomenalism –the view that certain mental states are non-physical and, although caused to come into existence by physical events, do not then cause any changes in the physical world. However, Jackson later rejected the knowledge argument [6] , as well as other arguments against physicalism: Although I once dissented from the majority, I have capitulated and now see the interesting issue as being where the arguments from the intuitions against physicalism–the arguments that seem so compelling–go wrong. Jackson is also known for his defence of the centrality of conceptual analysis to philosophy; his approach, set out in his Locke Lectures and published as his book, is often referred to as the Canberra Plan for doing philosophy. A Memoir" by Barbara Donagan, Ethics , p. Archived from the original on Retrieved 22 November References and further reading[edit] Franklin, J.

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