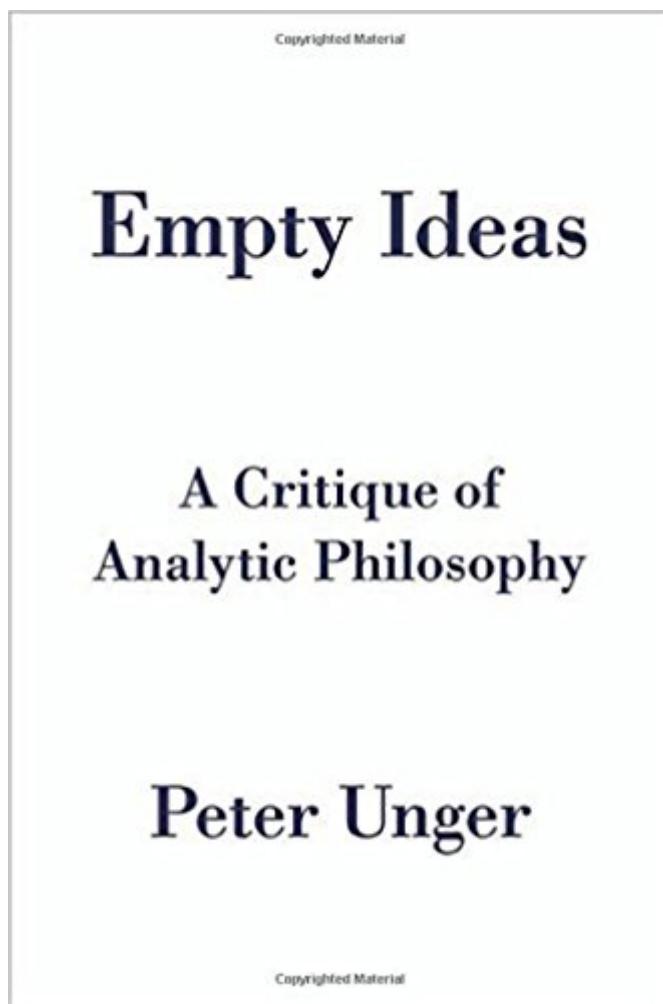


The book was found

Empty Ideas: A Critique Of Analytic Philosophy



Synopsis

Peter Unger's provocative new book poses a serious challenge to contemporary analytic philosophy, arguing that to its detriment it focuses the predominance of its energy on "empty ideas." In the mid-twentieth century, philosophers generally agreed that, by contrast with science, philosophy should offer no substantial thoughts about the general nature of concrete reality. Leading philosophers were concerned with little more than the semantics of ordinary words. For example: Our word "perceives" differs from our word "believes" in that the first word is used more strictly than the second. While someone may be correct in saying "I believe there's a table before me" whether or not there is a table before her, she will be correct in saying "I perceive there's a table before me" only if there is a table there. Though just a parochial idea, whether or not it is correct does make a difference to how things are with concrete reality. In Unger's terms, it is a concretely substantial idea. Alongside each such parochial substantial idea, there is an analytic or conceptual thought, as with the thought that someone may believe there is a table before her whether or not there is one, but she will perceive there is a table before her only if there is a table there. Empty of import as to how things are with concrete reality, those thoughts are what Unger calls concretely empty ideas. It is widely assumed that, since about 1970, things had changed thanks to the advent of such thoughts as the content externalism championed by Hilary Putnam and Donald Davidson, various essentialist thoughts offered by Saul Kripke, and so on. Against that assumption, Unger argues that, with hardly any exceptions aside from David Lewis's theory of a plurality of concrete worlds, all of these recent offerings are concretely empty ideas. Except when offering parochial ideas, Peter Unger maintains that mainstream philosophy still offers hardly anything beyond concretely empty ideas.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (July 14, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199330816

ISBN-13: 978-0199330812

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.7 x 6.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #220,355 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in Books > Textbooks >

Customer Reviews

"Unger is careful and generous with most of the positions he is criticizing. He succeeds in shifting the burden of proof onto analytic philosophy's defenders...Essential. Upper-level undergraduates and above." --Choice "Empty Ideas has several virtues, all characteristic of good analytic philosophy. It is often bold, clear, intelligent, ingenious, and independent-minded." --Timothy Williamson, Times Literary Supplement "This incisive book lays crucial challenges at the door of mainstream analytic philosophy, for Unger argues persuasively that (contrary to its explicit self-conception), a great deal of recent philosophy has been concerned with merely conceptual issues--nothing 'concretely substantial'. The book is sure to provoke controversy and healthy debate about the role and value of philosophy." - Amie L. Thomasson, Professor of Philosophy and Cooper Fellow, University of Miami "Please read Peter Unger's Empty Ideas. I imagine an incredible amount of debate not just on this work, but based on this work. Well done Unger for starting a kind of philosophical fire, even if you didn't think it would start just the kind of fire you have imagined!" -- Philosophy in Review

Peter Unger is a Professor of Philosophy at New York University. He is the author of five previous self-standing books, all currently available from the Oxford University Press: *Ignorance: A Case for Scepticism*; *Philosophical Relativity*; *Identity, Consciousness and Value*; *Living High and Letting Die: Our Illusion of Innocence*; and *All the Power in the World*. As well, Oxford has published his *Philosophical Papers*, a two-volume collection of shorter works previously published elsewhere.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Empty Ideas: A Critique of Analytic Philosophy Three Critiques, 3-volume Set: Vol. 1: Critique of Pure Reason; Vol. 2: Critique of Practical Reason; Vol. 3: Critique of Judgment (Hackett Classics) Fashionable Nihilism: A Critique of Analytic Philosophy Routledge Philosophy GuideBook to Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason (Routledge Philosophy GuideBooks) Manifesto for Philosophy: Followed by Two Essays: "the (Re)Turn of Philosophy Itself" and "Definition of Philosophy" (SUNY Series, Intersections, Philosophy and Critical Theory) Wittgenstein's Anthropological Philosophy (History of Analytic Philosophy) The Story of Analytic Philosophy: Plot and Heroes (Routledge Studies in Twentieth-Century Philosophy) The Theory of Descriptions: Russell and the Philosophy of Language (History of Analytic Philosophy) Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right Prolegomena

to Any Future Metaphysics: That Will Be Able to Come Forward as Science: With Selections from the Critique of Pure Reason, Revised Edition (Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy) The Cambridge Companion to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason (Cambridge Companions to Philosophy) Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art: The Analytic Tradition: An Anthology A Brief History of Analytic Philosophy: From Russell to Rawls An Introduction to Analytic Philosophy: Paradoxes, Arguments and Contemporary Problems Analytic Philosophy: An Anthology Readings In The Philosophy Of Religion: An Analytic Approach (Second Edition) Analytic Philosophy in America: And Other Historical and Contemporary Essays The Analytic Tradition in Philosophy, Volume 1: The Founding Giants Analytic Philosophy: A Very Short introduction (Very Short Introductions) Wittgenstein After His Nachlass (History of Analytic Philosophy)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)