

Permeating Properties

Wednesday, 18 September 2024, 4pm – 5.30pm

Venue: AS3-05-23

“Qua” or “as a” constructions appear in many philosophical contexts, including in metaphysics, philosophy of religion, philosophy of language, and philosophy of action. One important function of qua-ascriptions is to block violations of Leibniz’s Law. We can truthfully state that the old Penn Station was destroyed qua building and that the old Penn Station still exists qua pile of bricks without claiming that the old Penn Station was destroyed and still exists. That is, we can sometimes claim that an object x is F qua G without concluding that x is F . This paper uses the notion of real definition to provide an account of when we can and cannot infer x is F from the fact that x is F qua G . I apply the proposal to cases that potentially threaten Leibniz’s Law and explain how my proposal can be adopted by different metaphysical theories of qua-ascriptions.



Erica Shumener

Erica Shumener is an assistant professor at Syracuse University in the United States. Erica specializes in metaphysics, and she has recently been working on the metaphysics of identity and distinctness. Before coming to Syracuse, Erica was an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh. Before that, she earned her graduate and undergraduate degrees from New York University. And before that, she was born and raised in glamorous Los Angeles, California.