

Barry Smith:

Against Fantology: The Case of Properties

Abstract:

Much of contemporary analytical metaphysics has been plagued, in its underlying ontology, by a series of simplifications derived from a rarely thematized tendency to treat first-order predicate logic as a key to ontological structure. I shall consider here the simplifications attached to the notion of property, a notion which will be shown to run together four separate notions of universals, events, functions and qualities. The talk will provide an alternative ontological framework, within which the mentioned confusions are eliminated.