

PHIL 3923H: Deception and Delusion
Prof. Funkhouser
12/9/08

FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS

Your final exam is on Wednesday, December 17th, from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. It is worth 300 points. Your exam will consist of 6 questions, worth 50 points each, drawn from the 10 questions provided below. Be sure to bring 1 or 2 bluebooks to the exam.

1. In their “Introduction: Pathologies of Belief”, Davies and Coltheart explain two principles of belief revision: conservatism and observational adequacy. Describe each of these principles, as well as a situation in which they appear to conflict. Explain how Davies and Coltheart elaborate on the conservatism and observational adequacy principles, and how they apply them in their account of delusions.

2. Mirrored self-misidentification is one of the delusions of misidentification discussed by Breen, et al. What are we to make of the rationality of people such as FE, especially in light of passages like the following?

FE’s family tried on numerous occasions to dissuade him from his belief by providing him with evidence contrary to the delusion. FE would listen attentively to their arguments and often agreed with their logic, but his delusional belief remained steadfast. (83)

Explain what FE believed concerning his image in the mirror, and the extent of his (ir)rationality.

3. Explain these 3 types of rationality, as characterized by Gold and Hohwy: procedural, content, and experiential. Explain the sense in which Gold and Hohwy think that schizophrenic delusions are irrational, as well as their reasons for this. Evaluate this account of the (ir)rationality of schizophrenics.

4. Explain how Currie utilizes the claim that schizophrenia involves a loss of a sense of agency to account for the delusions of schizophrenics. How does

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Currie understand the imagination's role in these delusions? Explain how Currie's account is similar to Stephens and Graham's account of thought insertion.

5. What is the *sense of subjectivity*, as Stephens and Graham use the term? What do they have to say against accounts that characterize verbal hallucinations as involving a loss of a sense of subjectivity? Present their position here in some detail. As best you can, articulate what it would be like to have a split between introspective awareness and the sense of subjectivity.

6. What is the Auditory-Hallucination Model (AHM) of alien voices? What critical assumption about the phenomenology of the experience of verbal hallucination does this model make? How plausible is this assumption? Provide an empirical hypothesis that can be added to this model to explain the *alien* quality of these voices.

7. Provide Ralph Hoffman's hypothesis to explain the externalization of voices. This model has the consequence that ordinary people also temporarily externalize voices from time to time. Provide such an example. Describe the functional component that Hoffman posits to explain why ordinary people do not fall into the alien delusion.

8. What is the difference between merely externalizing a thought and judging it to be alien? Provide a (supposed) example of non-pathological externalization of a thought. How does Frankfurt characterize externalization and argue for its legitimacy?

9. Stephens and Graham invoke Dennett's concept of introspecting and applying the intentional stance to oneself. With this concept in mind, explain the conditions that Stephens and Graham believe are both sufficient and typical for a subject (pathological or not) to externalize a thought. Provide an objection to the claim that these conditions are sufficient for externalization.

10. According to Stephens and Graham, what features of verbal hallucinations lead schizophrenics to alienate their externalized thoughts? Is this a justified or even plausible explanation of the alien hypothesis? What empirical evidence, real or hypothetical, would help determine the validity of the Stephens-Graham explanation of alienation?