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Simon Blackburn FBA is an English academic philosopher known for his work in metaethics, where he defends quasi-realism, and in the philosophy of

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language; more recently, he has gained a large general audience from his efforts to popularise philosophy. He has appeared in multiple episodes of the documentary series Closer to Truth. During his long career, he has taught at Oxford University, Cambridge University, and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

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Simon Blackburn was Professor of Philosophy at the University of Cambridge. Until recently he was Edna J. Koury Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and from 1969 to 1990 he was a Fellow and Tutor at Pembroke College, Oxford. Trinity College Metaphysics, Ethics, Philosophy of Mind and Language

Simon Blackburn — Faculty of Philosophy

Simon Blackburn was born in 1944 and is currently the Professor of Philosophy at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Before that, he taught Philosophy at Pembroke College, Oxford, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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Professor Simon Blackburn » Humanists UK

Professor Blackburn, your philosophical interests cover a wide area including ethics, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind and so forth. My first question is which particular area do you find philosophically most interesting? Well, in the course of my career I have found them successively the most interesting, I suppose.

Simon Blackburn | Issue 35 | Philosophy Now

Simon Blackburn is a Vice President of the British Humanist Association, a member of the Humanist Philosophers ' Group, a former Professor of Philosophy

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Simon Blackburn is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Cambridge. Until recently he was Edna J. Koury Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina, and from 1969 to 1999 a Fellow and Tutor at Pembroke College, Oxford.

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Simon Blackburn's theory on 'what is philosophy'?? Blackburn calls philosophy conceptual engineering. For just as the engineer studies the structure of material things, so the philosopher studies the structure of thought. For just as the engineer studies the structure of material things, so the philosopher studies the structure of thought.

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He specializing in philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, and philosophy of psychology. Blackburn is the author of many books, including, Spreading the Word (1984); Essay in Quasi-Realism (1993); The

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Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy (1994); Ruling Passions (1998); Truth (Co-edited with Keith Simmons, 1999); Think (1999); Being Good (2001); Lust (2004); Truth: A Guide for the Perplexed (2005); Plato ' s Republic (2006); and most recently, How to Read Hume (2008). He has written ...

Simon Blackburn - Department of Philosophy
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Simon Blackburn is Professor of Philosophy at
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distinguished philosophers writing today. He is the
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and goes on to give the reader a sense of how the great historical figures such as Descartes, Hume, Kant, and Wittgenstein have approached its central themes. Each chapter explains a major issue, and gives the reader a self-contained guide through the problems that philosophers have studied. The large scope of topics covered range from scepticism, the self, mind and body, and freedom to ethics and the arguments surrounding the existence of God. Lively and approachable, this book is ideal for all those who want to learn how the basic techniques of thinking shape our existence.

This accessible introduction to ethics continues the

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trend of Blackburn's best-selling Think. His rare combination of depth, rigor and sparking prose, and his distinguished ranking among contemporary philosophers, mark Being Good as an important statement on our current disenchantment with ethics.

Best known to the general public for his attempts to make philosophy accessible to those with little or no formal training, Simon Blackburn's reputation in academic circles is based on a lifetime pursuit of a projectivist and anti-realist research programme in the spirit of the great David Hume. This volume of critical essays by some of the most influential philosophers working today documents the whole range and

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influence of Blackburn's work, and poses some novel challenges for him.

The author of the highly popular book *Think*, which *Time* magazine hailed as "the one book every smart person should read to understand, and even enjoy, the key questions of philosophy," Simon Blackburn is that *rara avis*--an eminent thinker who is able to explain philosophy to the general reader. Now Blackburn offers a tour de force exploration of what he calls "the most exciting and engaging issue in the whole of philosophy"--the age-old war over truth. The front lines of this war are well defined. On one side are those who believe in plain, unvarnished facts, rock-solid truths

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that can be found through reason and objectivity--that science leads to truth, for instance. Their opponents mock this idea. They see the dark forces of language, culture, power, gender, class, ideology and desire--all subverting our perceptions of the world, and clouding our judgement with false notions of absolute truth. Beginning with an early skirmish in the war--when Socrates confronted the sophists in ancient Athens--Blackburn offers a penetrating look at the longstanding battle these two groups have waged, examining the philosophical battles fought by Plato, Protagoras, William James, David Hume, Hans-Georg Gadamer, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Richard Rorty, and many others, with a particularly fascinating

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look at Nietzsche. Among the questions Blackburn considers are: is science mere opinion, can historians understand another historical period, and indeed can one culture ever truly understand another. Blackburn concludes that both sides have merit, and that neither has exclusive ownership of truth. What is important is that, whichever side we embrace, we should know where we stand and what is to be said for our opponents.

This bestselling dictionary is written by one of the leading philosophers of our time, and it is widely recognized as the best dictionary of its kind. Comprehensive and authoritative, it covers every

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aspect of philosophy from Aristotle to Zen. With clear and concise definitions, it provides lively and accessible coverage of not only Western philosophical traditions, but also themes from Chinese, Indian, Islamic, and Jewish philosophy. Entries include over 400 biographies of famous and influential philosophers, in-depth analysis of philosophical terms and concepts, and a chronology of philosophical events stretching from 10,000 BC to the present day. New entries on philosophy of economics, social theory, neuroscience, philosophy of the mind, and moral conceptions bring the third edition of this dictionary fully up to date. Fully cross-referenced and containing over 3,300 alphabetical entries, it is the ideal introduction to

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philosophy for anyone with an interest in the subject, and it is an indispensable work of reference for students and teachers.

In *What Do We Really Know?* Simon Blackburn addresses the twenty most-asked philosophical questions, including 'Can machines think?', 'What is the meaning of life?', 'Is death to be feared?', 'Why be good?', 'What am I?' and 'What do we really know?' Each 3000-word essay examines a question that has eternally perplexed enquiring minds, and provides answers from history's great thinkers.

This important book is about truth, and the enemies of

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truth, and the wars that are fought between them. As Simon Blackburn says in his introduction, "the ground is complicated, strewn with abandoned fortresses and trenches, fought over by shifting alliances". Truth is an essential sure-footed guide through the territory, from classical to modern times. It looks at relativism and absolutism, toleration and belief, objectivity and knowledge, science and pseudo-science, and the moral and political implications, as well as the nuances, of all these.

Our self-image as moral, well-behaved creatures is dogged by scepticism, relativism, hypocrisy, and nihilism, by the fear that in a Godless world science has

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unmasked us as creatures fated by our genes to be selfish and tribalistic, or competitive and aggressive. In this 'sparklingly clear' (Guardian) introduction to ethics Simon Blackburn tackles the major moral questions surrounding birth, death, happiness, desire and freedom, showing us how we should think about the meaning of life, and how we should mistrust the soundbite-sized absolutes that often dominate moral debates. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and

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enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

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