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Conferencia

A definition of normality for generics

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Entrada libre **/** Cupo limitado
La conferencia se dictará en inglés y no habrá traducción simultánea

Abstract: This paper offers a new theory of generic sentences such as *ravens are black, tigers have stripes,* and *sea-turtles are long-lived*. It integrates metaphysical and semantic resources in order to offer a comprehensive and theoretically attractive account. The metaphysical core consists of a theory of what it takes for a property to be characteristic for a kind, e.g., what it takes for blackness to be characteristic for the kind *Corvus*. This metaphysical theory on its own could be used to account for many, but not all, generics. The slack is taken up by integrating the theory of characteristic properties with a compositional semantic theory. Once this is done, we can draw on independently established semantic resources to leverage the metaphysics into a more nearly adequate account of generics.