

The Primacy of the Practical (is Kant an early encroachment theorist?)

(Andrew Chignell)

In this talk I consider the Kantian idea that theoretical commitments regarding what *exists* can at times be wholly based in practical considerations regarding what *ought to be the case*. I argue that at least one variety of a broadly Kantian “moral argument” has some real attractions. Along the way I compare the Kantian picture to some “encroachment” theories in contemporary philosophy (i.e. theories according to which practical stakes affect whether or not we have knowledge of certain theoretical propositions).