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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 language; more recently, he has gained a large general

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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,

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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.

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

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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 at the University of Cambridge, and currently a Distinguished Research Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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Simon Blackburn What Is Philosophy  
Simon Blackburn FBA (born 12 July 1944) is an English academic philosopher known for his work in metaethics, where he defends quasi-realism, and in the philosophy of language; more recently, he has gained a large general audience from his efforts to

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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

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philosophy 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

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(1984); *Essay in Quasi-Realism* (1993); *The 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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Think A Compelling Introduction To Philosophy By Simon ...

Simon Blackburn is Professor of Philosophy at Cambridge University, and one of the most distinguished philosophers writing today. He is the author of the bestselling Dictionary of Philosophy, Think and Being Good, which has appeared in 15 languages.

This is a book about the big questions in life: knowledge, consciousness, fate, God, truth, goodness, justice. It is for anyone who thinks there are big questions lurking out there, but does not know how to approach them. Written by the author of the

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bestselling Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy, Think sets out to explain what they are and why they are important.

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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 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

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Philosophy, bestselling author Simon Blackburn addresses 20 essential questions.

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 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

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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 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

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James, David Hume, Hans-Georg Gadamer, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Richard Rorty, and many others, with a particularly fascinating 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.

It is not only in our dark hours that scepticism, relativism, hypocrisy, and nihilism dog ethics. Whether it is a matter of giving to charity, or sticking to duty, or insisting on our rights, we can be confused, or be paralysed by the fear that our

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Principles are groundless. Many are afraid that in a Godless world science has unmasked us as creatures fated by our genes to be selfish and tribalistic, or competitive and aggressive. Simon Blackburn, author of the best-selling *Think*, structures this short introduction around these and other threats to ethics. Confronting seven different objections to our self-image as moral, well-behaved creatures, he charts a course through the philosophical quicksands that often engulf us. Then, turning to problems of life and death, he shows how we should think about the meaning of life, and how we should mistrust the sound-bite sized absolutes that often dominate moral debates. Finally he offers a critical tour of the ways the philosophical tradition has tried to provide foundations for ethics, from Plato and Aristotle through to contemporary debates.

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**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.

Truth is not just a recent topic of contention. Arguments about it have gone on for centuries. Why is the truth important? Who decides what the truth is? Is there such a thing as objective, eternal truth, or is truth simply a matter of perspective, of linguistic or cultural vantage point? In this concise book Simon Blackburn provides an accessible explanation of what truth is and how we might think about it. The first half of the book details several main approaches to

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how we should think about, and decide, what is true. These are philosophical theories of truth such as the correspondence theory, the coherence theory, deflationism, and others. He then examines how those approaches relate to truth in several contentious domains: art, ethics, reasoning, religion, and the interpretation of texts. Blackburn's overall message is that truth is often best thought of not as a product or an end point that is 'finally' achieved, but--as the American pragmatist thinkers thought of it--as an ongoing process of inquiry. The result is an accessible and tour through some of the deepest and thorniest questions philosophy has ever tackled

This volume presents fourteen original essays which explore the philosophy of Simon Blackburn, one of the UK's most influential contemporary philosophers. Blackburn is best known to the general

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public for his attempts to make philosophy accessible to those with little or no formal training, but in professional circles his reputation is based on a lifetime pursuit of his distinctive version of a projectivist and anti-realist research program. As he sees things, we must always try first to understand and explain what we are doing when we think and talk as we do. This research program reaches into nearly all of the main areas of philosophy: metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, moral philosophy, and moral psychology. The books and articles he has written provide us with perhaps the most comprehensive statement and defense of projectivism and anti-realism since Hume. The essays collected here document the range and influence of Blackburn's work. They reveal, among other things, the resourcefulness of his distinctive brand of philosophical pragmatism.

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