

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
COLLOQUIUM LECTURE

"A NEW FUNCTIONALIST THEORY OF COLOR"

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LYCOMING COLLEGE

I motivate and defend here a previously underdeveloped functionalist account of the metaphysics of color. Although other theorists have proposed varieties of color functionalism, this view differs from such accounts insofar as colors are type identified by their relative locations within a so-called 'quality space', which reflects creatures' capacities to visually discriminate among the colors. I argue that this view has many advantages over other mainstream theories of color, such as physicalism and relationalism. In particular, I argue that this quality-space functionalism better explains the data of perceptual variation than alternative accounts. Many view the fact that there are radical differences between how individuals see colors as revealing that there is no principled way to determine when and how individuals accurately perceive them. Quality-space functionalism about color, however, provides grounds for identifying and individuating the colors despite widespread perceptual variation.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019
1201 RICHCRAFT HALL
1:00 P.M.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

CARLETON UNIVERSITY