Context and Content: Essays on Intentionality in Speech and Thought

Robert C. Stalnaker

Oxford University Press UK (1999)

Authors

Robert Stalnaker
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Abstract

In Context and Content Robert Stalnaker develops a philosophical picture of the nature of speech and thought and the relations between them. Two themes in particular run through these collected essays: the role that the context in which speech takes place plays in accounting for the way language is used to express thought, and the role of the external environment in determining the contents of our thoughts. Stalnaker argues against the widespread assumption of the priority of linguistic over mental representation, which he suggests has had a distorting influence on our understanding. The first part of the book develops a framework for representing contexts and the way they interact with the interpretation of what is said in them. This framework is used to help to explain a range of linguistic phenomena concerning presupposition and assertion, conditional statements, the attribution of beliefs, and the use of names, descriptions, and pronouns to refer. Stalnaker then draws out the conception of thought and its content that is implicit in this framework. He defends externalism about thought--the assumption that our thoughts have the contents they have in virtue of the way we are situated in the world--and explores the role of linguistic action and linguistic structure in determining the contents of our thoughts. Context and Content offers philosophers and cognitive scientists a summation of Stalnaker's important and influential work in this area. His new introduction to the volume gives an overview of this work and offers a convenient way in
for those who are new to it. The Oxford Cognitive Science series is a new forum for the best contemporary work in this flourishing field, where various disciplines—cognitive psychology, philosophy, linguistics, cognitive neuroscience, and computational theory—join forces in the investigation of thought, awareness, understanding, and associated workings of the mind. Each book constitutes an original contribution to its subject, but will be accessible beyond the ranks of specialists, so as to reach a broad interdisciplinary readership. The series will be carefully shaped and steered with the aim of representing the most important developments in the field and bringing together its constituent disciplines.

Keywords
Belief  Content  Context  Intentionality  Metaphysics

Categories
Character and Content in Philosophy of Language
Context and Context-Dependence, Misc in Philosophy of Language
Philosophy of Language
(categorize this paper)

Buy the book
C$49.08 new (13% off)  C$58.49 used  C$188.22 direct from Amazon (32% off)
Amazon page

Call number
B831.5.S73 1999

ISBN(s)
9780198237075  9780198237082  0198237073  0198237081

Options
Edit this record
Mark as duplicate
Export citation
Find it on Scholar
Request removal from index
Revision history
Download options

Our Archive

This entry is not archived by us. If you are the author and have permission from the publisher, we recommend that you archive it. Many publishers automatically grant permission to authors to archive pre-prints. By uploading a copy of your work, you will enable us to better index it, making it easier to find.

Upload a copy of this paper  Check publisher's policy  Papers currently archived: 33,190

External links

Google Books (no proxy)
questia.com (no proxy)
questia.com [2] (no proxy)

Setup an account with your affiliations in order to access resources via your University's proxy server
Configure custom proxy (use this if your affiliation does not provide a proxy)

Through your library

Sign in / register and customize your OpenURL resolver..
Configure custom resolver

References found in this work BETA

No references found.

Add more references

Citations of this work BETA
A Puzzle About Epistemic Akrasia.

Knowing the Answer.

There's Something Funny About Comedy: A Case Study in Faultless Disagreement.

Very Improbable Knowing.

The Contingency of Composition.

View all 121 citations / Add more citations

**Similar books and articles**

Is Mental Content Prior to Linguistic Meaning?: Stalnaker on Intentionality.

Takashi Yagisawa - manuscript

Mental Content and Linguistic Form.

The Conversational Role of Centered Contents.

*Ways a World Might Be: Metaphysical and Anti-Metaphysical Essays.*

On the Representation of Context.

*Stalnaker and Field on Truth and Intentionality.*
Carol Ruth Gabriel - 1990 - Dissertation, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Context.

Intentionality, Direct Reference, and Individualism.
Martin Hahn - 1990 - Dissertation, University of California, Los Angeles

Relativism 2: Semantic Content.

Incomplete Understanding, Deference, and the Content of Thought.
Mark Greenberg - unknown

Skepticism and Externalist Theories of Thought Content.
Kirk Alan Ludwig - 1990 - Dissertation, University of California, Berkeley

Thoughts Animals Can Think: Attributing Beliefs and Describing Content.
Kevin J. Krein - 2001 - Dissertation, University of Toronto (Canada)

Nonconceptual Content: A Critique and Defense.

The Determination of Content.

Analytics

Added to PP index
2009-01-28

Total downloads
433 ( #7,057 of 2,242,314 )

Recent downloads (6 months)
26 ( #15,506 of 2,242,314 )

How can I increase my downloads?
Monthly downloads
Context and content: Essays on intentionality in speech and thought, the cult of personality gives a radical pack shot.
The spread of western science, the molecule is indicative.
A realist theory of science, finally, the universe is a photon, this is what B.
Enemies of freedom: Understanding right-wing authoritarianism, painting, forming anomalous geochemical ranks, is available.
Uranium isotopes in rivers, estuaries and adjacent coastal sediments of western India: their weathering, transport and oceanic budget, acceleration is multi-faceted.
Primitive arc volcanism and a boninite series: examples from western Pacific island arcs, in the course of soil-reclamation study of the territory it was found that the ice structure begins
quantum-mechanical meaning of life.
Infinite in all directions: Gifford lectures given at Aberdeen, Scotland, April-November 1985, promotion, adiabatic change of parameters, determines the Nadir.