The 2021 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium: Online Proceedings

Virtual Poster Session 2:

New Collegiate Division
The 2021 University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium: Abstract

The Science of Imagination
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The present work proceeds by offering an interpretive reconstruction of Gottlob Frege’s theory of Sense and Reference, highlighting the problem of empty references, motivating Frege’s solution thereto, and offering an original two-pronged argument in opposition to it. Through its argument, the work decisively demonstrates that the ideal scientific language Frege prescribes is in fact unfit for science since it takes away the imaginative power demonstrated to be inherent to it and ignores the notion that meaning generation and thereby truth discovery stems from an interplay of senses rather than of references. Frege’s potential counterarguments appealing to his notions of indirect speech and mock thoughts are duly considered and refuted for producing more ambiguity and inconsistency than clarity. Above all, the research encourages further examination of the great founder of modern philosophy of language.