

Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
North Carolina State University

Philosophy Colloquium Series

http://www.ncsu.edu/chass/philo/phil_activities.html

Experience and Temporal Asymmetry

L. A. Paul

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
and National Humanities Center*

Thursday, February 9, 2012, 4:30 p.m.

Withers Hall, Room 331

Map: http://www.ncsu.edu/campus_map/north.htm

All are welcome

Abstract: I focus on the nature of temporal experience, that is, on how we experience time, and on how this is connected to the metaphysical issue of what the nature of time is. In particular, I discuss the psychological and perceptual facts about how we experience spatial direction, causation, causal direction and goal-oriented behavior. I then connect this to metaphysics and philosophy of physics debates over the direction of the temporal arrow from past to future. In particular, I argue that ordinary experience of the asymmetry of time needs to be understood in a psychologically sophisticated way before it can be used as support in arguments for antireductionist theories of the temporal arrow. For useful background, see <http://www.lapaul.org/papers/temporalexperience.pdf>.

This colloquium may not be recorded without written permission from both the speaker and the NC State Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.