

## "Essence as Generalised Identity and Real Definition"

By Fabrice Correia

In recent unpublished work, Alexander Skiles and I have developed a unified theory of essence and grounding in terms of a notion we call, borrowing the phrase from Øystein Linnebo, *generalised identity*. The concept of essence which is the target of the account is linked to the notion of *real definition*: for instance, if "It is to be *G*" is a correct (full or only partial) answer to the essentialist question "What is it to be *F*?", then it provides a (full or only partial) real definition of being *F*. An important feature of our account is that full real definitions are symmetric: if to be *F* is what it is to be *G*, then to be *G* is what it is to be *F*. This is at odds with the received view that real definitions must be asymmetric. In the talk, I will explore the prospects of characterising an asymmetric notion of real definition using the framework of generalised identity.