"Theoretical Foundations of Threat Ontology (ThrO)"

The study of metaphysics can be divided into two distinct branches: the first being ontology and the second being epistemology. Ontology is the study of what is, what exists, what can be logically categorized. Ontologists attempt to capture the most basic structures of reality by developing accurate and comprehensive formal systems that transparently model existing places, times, entities, properties, and relations. An ontologist should operate like an empirical scientist, meaning they should attempt to provide an accurate, third person-based, independently observable description of the world, apart from cultural, linguistic, or other types of cognitive biases. Epistemology, conversely, deals with theories of knowledge and the mental operations of agents (i.e., knowers) who are their bearers. Epistemology is unlike ontology, in that it is unable to provide a third person-based, independently observable description of the world. Knowledge is always tied to some agent who possesses it, since it is the product of the neurological functions of that agent's brain, and the latter are part of the objective, ontological furniture of the world. Threats are special kinds of items which possess both ontological (objective, veridical) and epistemological (subjective, perceived) components. This talk will attempt to elucidate some of the relations between the ontological and epistemological components of threats and threat conditions.

Refreshments will be available
Everyone is welcome!

For information please call the Cognitive Science Office at (716) 645-3794 or check http://www.cogsci.buffalo.edu/Activities/Colloquium/CLLOf03/2003fall.htm

Sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York