

Property Versatility and Copredication – short abstract

Nearly all properties are, to a certain extent, *versatile*: there are many different ways to instantiate them. Consider for example a light-blue scarf and a dark-blue gemstone. These two objects share the property of *being blue*, despite being different kinds of objects and differing in the way in which they are blue.

Our key insight ('Property Versatility') is that this apparently mundane observation should be extended: many properties are considerably more versatile than theorists typically take them to be. This simple insight turns out to be incredibly powerful in addressing a wide range of issues in the philosophy of language, metaphysics, and beyond.

One such issue is the classic problem of *copredication*. Copredication sentences such as 'Lunch was delicious but took hours' are common yet puzzling. These sentences can be true despite seemingly ascribing incompatible properties: it appears that only the food eaten can be delicious, and only the event attended take hours. This book offers a comprehensive discussion of the problem of copredication, including a critical evaluation of extant approaches to the problem. The discussion culminates with a defence of the Property Versatility approach to copredication. Appealing to the insight behind Property Versatility, we develop a simple yet empirically powerful approach to copredication.

In addition, the book demonstrates how Property Versatility is a powerful tool in addressing a wide range of issues beyond copredication, including the semantics of generics, the metaphysics of establishments and repeatable artworks, fictional discourse, and the nature of ambiguity, as well as a host of others.