

Book Review

Stewart Shapiro. *Vagueness in Context*. The Clarendon Press, Oxford, 2008. x + 226 pages.

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Stewart Shapiro is Professor of Philosophy at The Ohio State University and at the University of St Andrews. The question of the logic of vague concepts has occupied a central position in the philosophical research at these institutions. The ideas for his latest book *Vagueness in Context* arose from discussions and conversations in these two rich intellectual environments. Shapiro does not have a long track record of journal publications on vagueness. But he (determinately) is one of the most prominent philosophical logicians to date. So when he articulates his own view on the matter, one is well advised to listen. Even if one ends up not agreeing, one will be sure to learn.

Shapiro carves out a new theory of vagueness. This theory is developed in detail and defended against possible objections. In a nutshell, Shapiro's theory is a combination of contextualism and supervaluationism. The first half of the book contains the heart of the proposal. It contains a long chapter describing the philosophical position that is advocated and the guiding ideas behind it (Chapter 1) and a formal elaboration of the theory (Chapters 3 and 4). In between, we find a chapter on adequacy conditions for a formal theory of vagueness (Chapter 2). The second part of the book contains refinements and extensions of the theory and connections with related fields (Chapters 5, 6, and 7).

In this review, I will summarize the main tenets of Shapiro's theory and critically discuss them. Unlike [1], which concentrates on philosophical aspects of Shapiro's theory, I will also discuss aspects of the technical part of his proposal. I will not discuss the final chapters of the book, which deal with the question whether all vagueness is semantic vagueness or whether there exist also vague properties and relations or even vague objects in the world.

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