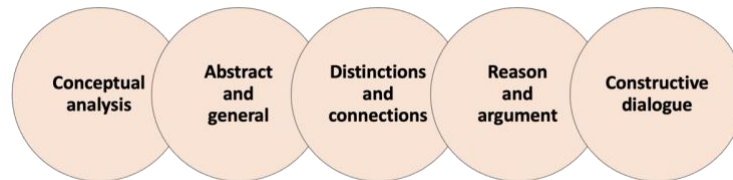


Reading

- Leslie Stevenson, 'Applied Philosophy', *Metaphilosophy*

The Philosophy Toolkit



Applied Philosophy

- What is Applied Philosophy? The UK society for Applied Philosophy says:
 - Philosophical study and research that has a direct bearing on areas of practical concern. Many topics of public debate are capable of being illuminated by the critical, analytic approach characteristic of philosophy, and by direct consideration of questions of value. These topics come from a number of different areas of social life—law, politics, economics, science, technology, medicine and education are among the most obvious.
- John Dewey ("The Need for a Recovery of Philosophy", 1917):
 - Philosophy recovers itself when it ceases to be a device for dealing with the problems of philosophers and becomes a method, cultivated by philosophers, for dealing with the problems of men.
- We can think Applied Philosophy as essentially connected to **action** it speaks to what we should do now. **What** can philosophy have a practical impact on, and **how** can philosophy have a practical impact? And **who** should do Applied Philosophy?

Applied Ethics

Applied Ethics contrasts with theoretical ethics (e.g., what the best general theory of right or wrong action is), and abstract studies of ethical epistemology, metaphysics, and language (metaethics). Some examples:

- Do animals have rights?
- When does a human life begin and when does it end?
- Are we morally responsible for future generations?
- Should we care for the environment or nature?
- Should we allow performance enhancing drugs in sport?
- Is war ever justified?
- Should drugs be legalized?
- What moral responsibilities do corporations have?

The Philosophy of Mental Health

- Can the philosophy of mental health can be a form of Applied Philosophy?
- Can philosophy have a practical impact on matters to do with mental health?