

Does 'Ought' Imply 'Can'?

The principle '*Ought* implies *can*' has important connections with the problem of free will. In this lecture, I lay out these connections and proceed to consider a recent exercise in "experimental philosophy" whose results some have regarded as constituting an important challenge to the principle. Although many, perhaps most, philosophers regard the principle as an analytic truth, a survey of non-philosophers conducted in 2016 has led its authors to conclude that non-philosophers do not accept the '*Ought* implies *can*' principle. The main topics of this lecture are (i) a critical evaluation of the authors' interpretation of the results of their survey and (ii) an examination of the implications of those results for the question whether the principle is true (and, whether, if it is true, it is an analytic truth).