Austere Realism

Contextual Semantics Meets Minimal Ontology

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Preface

This book grows out of our collaborative philosophical interaction with one another during the past decade. Matjaž spent the academic year 1996 as a Fulbright Scholar in Terry’s department at the University of Memphis. Philosophy of psychology was his main interest, which led to a conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia on Horgan and Tienson’s 1996 book *Connectionism and the Philosophy of Psychology* and to the publication of the conference proceedings in Potrč 1999b. Discussion spread to other areas of philosophy, including metaphysics, vagueness, and the origins of analytic philosophy and phenomenology—which led to a conference on vagueness in Bled, some of whose papers are collected in Horgan and Potrč 2000, 2003, and to a conference on origins whose proceedings are collected in Horgan, Potrč, and Tienson 2002. Our conversations about metaphysics, which continued over several years on different occasions of Terry’s visiting Slovenia, led to four coauthored papers (Horgan and Potrč 2000, 2002, 2006a, 2006b) and then to this book. The book contains material adapted from these papers and also from Barnard and Horgan 2006; Horgan 1993b, 1998b, 2001b, 2002; Horgan and Timmons 2002; and Potrč 1999a. We thank the editors of the journals in which these papers appeared for their kind permission to adapt material from them. Other papers and books containing ideas that are echoed in this book include Horgan 1986a, 1986b, 1991, 1995a, 1995b, 1996, 2000; Potrč 2000, 2002b, 2002d, 2003, 2004a; and Potrč and Strahovnik 2004a, 2004b, 2005.

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