

MIND, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

Seminar Series

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Bernard Reginster, PhD.

Brown University

“The Spirit of Entrepreneurship”

The economist Joseph Schumpeter memorably described capitalist entrepreneurial culture as an endless process of “creative destruction.” So conceived, it raises a fundamental ethical question: Can it be justified? Is it anything other than the expression of unbridled and socially disruptive greed? Portrayals of entrepreneurship in the scholarly literature and popular folklore suggest an affirmative answer to these questions, but they do not explicitly articulate it. I will attempt to do so by examining two evaluative concepts that figure prominently in that literature—‘adventure’ and ‘achievement.’

*Bernard Reginster is Professor and Chair in the Department of Philosophy at Brown University. He specializes in the ethical thought of the 19th and 20th century, as well as in philosophical issues arising from psychiatry and psychology. He is the author of many articles in those areas, as well as a book, *The Affirmation of Life* (Harvard University Press, 2006). He has been awarded fellowships by several institutions, including the Princeton University Center for Human Value, the National Humanities Center, the Brown University Cogut Humanities Center, and the Erikson Institute at the Austen Riggs Center. He was also awarded the John Rowe Workman Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Humanities by Brown University. Reginster currently is a member of the Council of Scholars for the Erikson Institute, and the founder and director of the Brown program for Ethical Inquiry. He is also a contributing faculty member to the Executive MBA program Brown offers in collaboration with the Spanish business school, Instituto de Empresa.*



Monday,

February 06, 2017

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

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Please contact David Noelle (dnoelle@ucmerced.edu) or Russ McBride (russ.mcbride@ucmerced.edu) for more information.