

**Jennifer Corns**

**University of Glasgow**

*The causal profile of negative hedonic tone*

Abstract:

Negative hedonic tone is the unpleasantness that is paradigmatic of experiences like e.g. pain, grief, boredom, and nausea. This unpleasantness has often been characterized in terms of phenomena on which we have an antecedent grip. The most popularly proffered are a) homeostatic utility; b) motivational states; c) evaluations; d) desires or preferences; and e) expectations. In this talk, I argue that negative hedonic tone is only contingently, causally related to a-e and should accordingly be characterized independently. I close by further suggesting that negative hedonic tone may not only have a wide causal profile, but--against my earlier self--may be reason responsive.