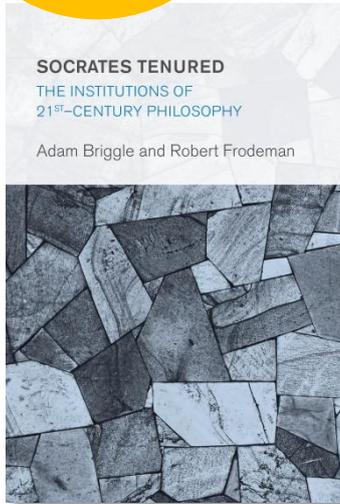


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Socrates Tenured

The Institutions of 21st-Century Philosophy
By Robert Frodeman and Adam Briggie



“We have not had such a reflective and thorough study of the institutional setting for philosophy affects since John Dewey’s *Reconstruction in Philosophy*. Frodeman and Briggie show that academe shapes how philosophy is received as much as how it is practiced.” – **Paul Thompson, W. K. Kellogg Chair in Agricultural, Food and Community Ethics, Michigan State University**

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Professional philosophy has strayed so far from its roots that Socrates wouldn’t stand a chance of landing tenure in most departments today. After all, he spent his time talking with people from all walks of life rather than being buried in the secondary literature and polishing arguments for peer-reviewed journals. Yet somehow this hypertrophy styles itself ‘real’ philosophy.

Socrates Tenured diagnoses the pathologies of contemporary philosophy and shows how the field can be revitalized. The first part of the book sketches the crisis facing philosophy in a neoliberal age and traces its roots back to the 20th-century move to turn philosophy into an academic discipline. In the second part the authors look at various attempts from applied ethics to their own brand of ‘field philosophy’ to confront the resulting problems of insularity and societal irrelevance. Part three connects this evaluation of philosophy with wider discussions in the politics of knowledge about the impacts of research on society. The final chapters consider both what impacts philosophy might have and what a philosophy of impact might look like.

“Bob Frodeman and Adam Briggie pose a fundamental problem in *Socrates Tenured*, wondering whether “academic philosophers are ready to help society think.” For the sake of the discipline, to be sure, but more importantly for the sake of society, I hope readers take up the challenges posed in this important book.”

– **Michael S. Roth, President, Wesleyan University**

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Robert Frodeman is Professor of Philosophy and was founding Director of the Center for the Study of Interdisciplinarity at the University of North Texas. His publications include *Sustainable Knowledge: A Theory of Interdisciplinarity* (2013).

Adam Briggie is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of North Texas. He is the author of *A Rich Bioethics* (2010) and co-author of *Ethics and Science: An Introduction* (2012).

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