

## **Looks are Situation-Dependent Properties**

By Douglas Moore

Dr. Matthew McGrath

### **ABSTRACT**

This thesis concerns the distinction between appearance and reality. Particularly, the metaphysical nature of a class of visual appearances that I call “looks.” I answer the question of what looks are. My position constitutes a break with philosophical tradition: looks are not mind-dependent properties, but objective--mind-independent--properties of objects. They are not, however, intrinsic properties, but relational properties objects have of projecting light of a certain informational character to a viewpoint. Looks-properties are instantiated relative to certain of the intrinsic properties of objects, spatial relations between objects and viewpoints, and environmental conditions on which the character of the light at the viewpoint depend.