For our third essay, we won’t actually be writing an essay but instead will focus on writing an abstract of an essay, an essay we anticipate writing about *Inception* but actually won’t write. Imagine that you are a philosophy student in a science fiction course, studying epistemology and metaphysics and the problem of appearance and reality, and you received a Call for Abstracts for the latest volume from the Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series on *Inception and Philosophy*. You decide you would like to try and write an abstract and see if you can get it accepted for the publication. Your abstract should be approximately 500 words long (no more) and should follow the guidelines for writing an abstract spelled out in “How to Write an Abstract,” paying close attention to the instructions for writing a conference abstract, which this is very like. The Call for Abstracts is listed below. Your abstract is due in class on Tuesday, March 22.

Call for Abstracts

**Inception and Philosophy**
Edited by David Kyle Johnson
The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series

If you have comments or criticisms for the series, please read “Fancy Taking a Pop?” at [http://www.philosophypress.co.uk/?p=1131](http://www.philosophypress.co.uk/?p=1131) and join the discussion in the comments section.

Abstracts and subsequent essays should be philosophically substantial but accessible, written to engage the intelligent lay reader. Contributors of accepted essays will receive an honorarium. Possible themes and topics might include, but are not limited to, the following:

* “Their dream has become their reality”: Inception and Nozick’s Experience Machine
* “How did you get here?” Can We Tell if We are Dreaming?
* Your Very Own Token: Solving the Skeptical Problem with a Spinning Top
* “They come to be woken up”: If Life is a Dream, Does it Matter?
* Living in Limbo: Convenient Dreams vs. Inconvenient Reality
* Is That Your Idea? A New Kind of Skeptical Problem
* Self, Mind, and Free Will: Could Your Brain be an Inceptor?
* Is the top still spinning? Does an Author’s Intent Matter?
* “An idea is like a virus”: The Power of Ideas
* “Take a leap of faith”: Is it Ever Acceptable to Believe without Evidence?
* “Only a fraction of our brain’s potential”: Separating Myth from Reality
* Penrose Steps: The Possibility of Paradox
* Real Life Inception: The Challenge of Changing People’s Minds
* “Your mind is the scene of the crime”: The Ethics of Inception
* What is a Dream Made Of? The Nature of Mind
Philosophy and Science Fiction
Essay Three: *Inception and Philosophy*

* Is Shared Dreaming Possible? The Problem of Neural Interpretation
* Shared Dreaming and the Problem of Other Minds
* The Nature of Free Will: Inception in Frankfurt-style Counterexamples
* Could Cobb be Insane? Demons, Dreamers & Madmen
* The Nature of Time: Time Moves More Slowly, the Further Down You Go
* Populating a Dream with Your Sub-conscious: Split Minds and Personal Identity

Submission Guidelines:
1. Submission deadline for abstracts (100-500 words) and CV’s: November 22, 2010
2. Submission deadline for first drafts of accepted papers: April 11, 2011

Kindly submit abstract (with or without Word attachment) and CV by email to: David Kyle Johnson, davidjohnson@kings.edu

Check out the series website: [http://andphilosophy.com/](http://andphilosophy.com/)