

Open Texture and Defeasible Semantic Constraint

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I will discuss some problems presented by open textured predicates for the semantics of natural language, as well as in legal theory. I will then (i) sketch an account of constraint in common law, (ii) suggest that this account can be adapted to help us understand open textured predicates as well, and maybe (iii) talk a bit about the reasoning involved in reaching decisions that satisfy the account of constraint.