

*Defy Reality: The Merits of a Virtual Realm*

Presenter Joshua Dye, Philosophy major

Mentored by Dr. Robert Lane

Can we defy reality through virtual reality (VR)? In *The Virtual and the Real*, David Chalmers defends a view that he calls virtual realism, according to which the virtual world exists in reality and possesses attributes that distinguish it from fiction. In this presentation, I use Susan Haack's work on fictionality and realism to help support Chalmers' idea of virtual realism. After explaining and defending virtual realism, I argue against Chalmers' normative claim that virtual reality has at most as much value as non-virtual reality; VR will allow one to have far more valuable experiences due to an extended agency within the virtual realm. Within this presentation, I provide metaphysical insight into virtual realism and promote the true value of virtual reality.