Bryce Huebner
The Construction of Philosophical Intuitions

Department of Philosophy Georgetown University United States e-mail: Bryce.Huebner@georgetown.edu

Do intuitions about thought experimental scenarios depend on epistemically irrelevant factors? Proponents of the "negative program" in experimental philosophy say, "yes"; their critics say, "no". In this paper, I argue that examining the psychological mechanisms we rely on to construct counterfactual representations can strengthen the negative program. I sketch a plausible approach to cognitive architecture, which would support the negative program; and I argue that research on the neuroscience of counterfactual thinking provides at least initial support for this approach.