

**Dual Character Concepts**  
**Josh Knobe**  
**Yale University**

**Abstract:**

Imagine a person who has a job as a physics professor, but who never changes her beliefs in light of empirical data and is always trying to prop up a preconceived dogma. Is it right to say that this person is a *scientist*? In cases like this one, people often feel torn. They say that (a) there is clearly a sense in which this person is a scientist, but also (b) in a deeper sense, this person is not a scientist at all. Examples like this one suggest that people have two different criteria for determining whether a person counts as a scientist, and concepts of this type are therefore known as “dual character concepts.” Over the past ten years or so, experimental research has led to many important findings about dual character concepts. In this talk, I will be reviewing this research and exploring some of the unresolved theoretical questions that arise out of it.