

# SWIP-Analytic

## 2017 Graduate Student Essay Prize

Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

11:00 – 13:00 hrs. Room 202

NYU Philosophy Department, 5 Washington Place, NYC

### Marion Boulicault (MIT) “The Contingency of Logical Necessity”



**ABSTRACT.** According to a standard account, logical relations between propositions exist independently of contingent facts, norms and practices. David Bloor challenges this standard account by arguing that, rather than existing independently of contingent facts, logical relations arise from them: “logical necessity is a moral and social relation” (1983, 121, emphasis added). In this essay, I examine Bloor’s argument for this bold claim. After first considering and rejecting an objection raised by Ian Hacking, I propose an alternative objection to Bloor’s social account of logical necessity. However, I end by suggesting that this objection poses a parallel justificatory problem for the standard account of logical necessity. In other words, both the standard and the social account of logical necessity suffer from parallel problems of justification.

**Comments by Kate Ritchie  
(City College, CUNY).**

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