



Illinois Wesleyan University Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research
Conference

1996, 7th Annual JWP Conference

Apr 13th, 10:45 AM - 11:00 AM

A Proposed Failure of the Intentional Stance

Matthew T. Dusek

Illinois Wesleyan University

Lenny Clapp, Faculty Advisor

Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Matthew T. Dusek and Lenny Clapp, Faculty Advisor, "A Proposed Failure of the Intentional Stance" (April 13, 1996). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. Paper 2.
<http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/1996/oralpres/2>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation 1.2

A PROPOSED FAILURE OF THE INTENTIONAL STANCE

Matthew T. Dusek and Lenny Clapp*, Department of Philosophy, IWU

In the contemporary debate in cognitive theory, two dominant trends have emerged concerning belief and desire. In support of a venerable tradition of realism, many theorists affirm a sub-personal cognitive psychology which preserves our folk-psychological intuitions. Alternately, many have bought stock in a promising eliminativism which explains away these complex phenomena in terms of a more ontologically conservative neurophysiology. In response to these dominant schools of thought, Daniel Dennett has developed an increasingly popular philosophy of psychology which culminates in an interpretive method called the Intentional Stance. In this method Dennett attempts to salvage our largely successful folk psychology without the cumbersome problematic of traditional realism. The Intentional Stance, as Dennett envisions it, is rooted in a scientifically respectable objectivity. A consequence of this objectivity will be presented.