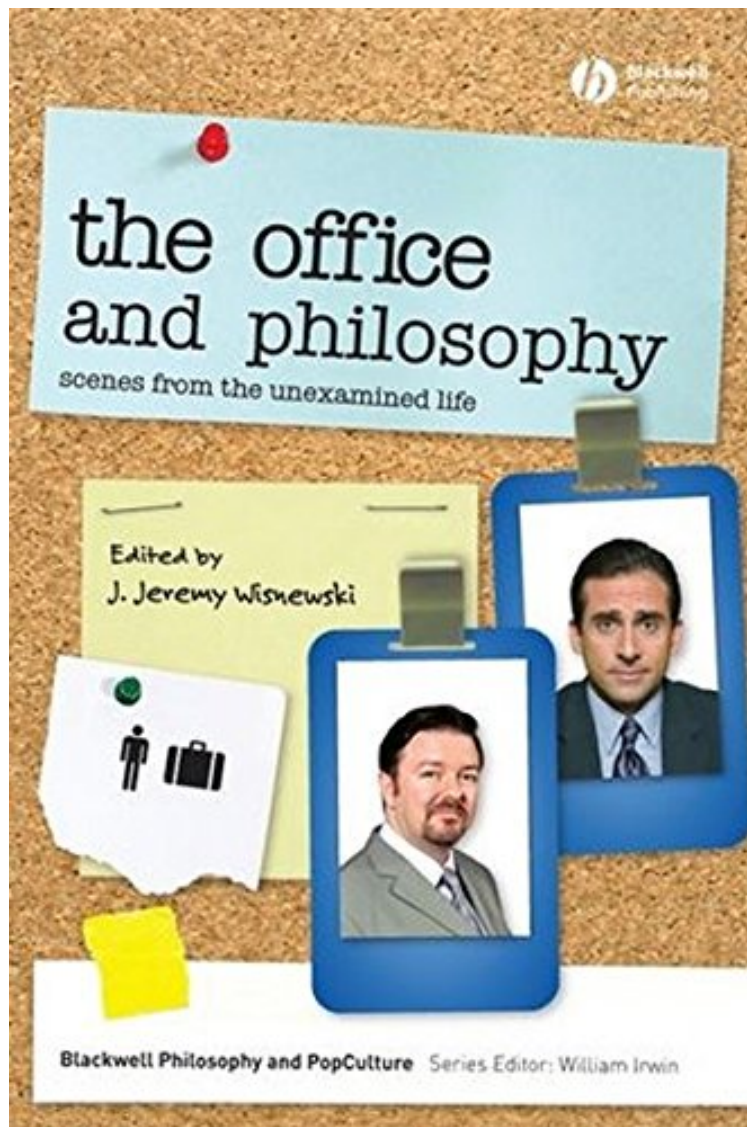


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## The Office and Philosophy: Scenes from the Unexamined Life (The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series)

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From Brand: Wiley-Blackwell : The Office and Philosophy: Scenes from the Unexamined Life (The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Office and Philosophy: Scenes from the Unexamined Life (The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Also a Study in Consumer Behaviour By Jeffrey Swystun "They say, that no man is an island. False. I am an island. And this island, is volcanic. And it is about to erupt, with the molten hot lava... of strategy." So says Dwight K. Schrute adding a hilarious quote to an amazing list from both the US and UK versions of this show. From both versions one learns much about human behaviour at home and at...the office. Thanks to The Blackwell Philosophy and PopCulture Series for covering The Office and for creating this format in the first place (be aware that the book was published in 2008 so misses quite a few seasons of the US version). I will go out on a limb and suggest that this show will be source material for relationships, business, and society for years to come. Historians and pop culturists will find a rich vein of references and themes to mine. The various authors who contribute to this book already have tapped into its cool content. Standouts for me came from Andrew Terjesen, Sean McAleer, and David Kyle Johnson. While they attempt to position the essays in a broad philosophical light most of the insights stem from the conflicting inter-relationships. The show is a behavioural lab as it was fictionally intended to be by employing the mockumentary style. As a marketer I enjoy when the show explores consumer behaviour which both versions do with frequency. In "Costume Contest", the sixth episode of the seventh season of the American version the plot involves a best Halloween costume contest. The prize is a discount book offering coupons from local businesses. The retail cost of the book is \$40 but it offers \$15,000 in savings if all coupons are redeemed. One of the characters on the show, Oscar Martinez, is an accountant who takes exception to the exuberant reaction of his colleagues to this prize. The employees throw themselves into the contest. They produce topical and highly detailed costumes in order to best each other. The competition dominates their workday. In frustration, Oscar asks a group of them, "Everyone realizes this coupon book is not actually worth \$15,000 right? You would have to spend \$200,000 on crap you don't need to get \$15,000 of benefits. I am not the only one who sees this right?" Apparently, he is. The employees escalate the competition by changing and upgrading their choices of costume while strategizing how best to present them. Oscar takes another opportunity to challenge his colleagues on economics and their behavior. They aggressively rebut or outright disregard his argument. To them, the coupon book is truly a \$15,000 prize. Oscar challenges this irrationality and takes it on as a crusade and opportunity to educate. He switches from his originally planned disco themed dance outfit to a very staid and generic ensemble worn by an everyman. He explains to his colleagues using air quotes that he is now a "rational consumer". The contest commences with the participants showing off their extremely elaborate ensembles including a samurai, Lady Gaga, a mummy, Michael Moore, and a sexy nurse. Each employee casts a vote for the winning costume and to everyone's surprise Oscar wins but his victory is greeted with little enthusiasm. The show cleverly reveals that the reasons why people voted for Oscar were as irrational as their view of the prize. There are rich, layered messages here and lessons for brands and consumers alike. The book could do with an update and I heartily volunteer to offer up an essay covering consumer behaviour called Buy Buy: The Irrational Rationality of The Office. Hey, I'm in marketing. 15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. "The Office and Philosophy" -- Geeky Cool! By A. Oberkrieser What an amazing book! For anyone who LOVES "The Office" (either UK or US version), has ever had full-on intellectual discussions about it, maybe even felt a little dirty for having those discussions. For anyone who has ever wondered if these characters, or if any show, is worth so much mulling over and picking apart. The clear answer is a resounding "YES!" Intellectuals rejoice, you have found a place where all of those theories and ideas you've had are on paper. Sure, you might not agree with some of the essays, but isn't that the joy of intellectual discourse? If you buy this book, you might want to buy 2 or find a friend who would also be inclined to read it so you have someone to discuss the contents with as you read. Just to recap what this book is: it is an anthology of academic papers on different moral and ethical issues and situations that are brought to light in both the UK and US versions of "The Office." It is a very clever, well thought, well chosen, and well organized anthology. Please note though, that I give this book a 5 out of 5 IF you are a fan of "The Office" and IF you are a fan of intellectual discourse. If not: forget it, move on, start with the show on DVD and work your way up. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. but it was a good read definitely recommend it to fans of the By Customer I think I wanted a deeper look into the characters and meanings, but it was a good read definitely recommend it to fans of the show

Just when you thought paper couldn't be more exciting, this book comes your way! This book--jammed full of paper--unites philosophy with one of the best shows ever: The Office. Addressing both the current American incarnation and the original British version, The Office and Philosophy brings these two wonders of civilization together for a frolic through the mundane yet curiously edifying worlds of Scranton's Dunder-Mifflin and Slough's Wernham-Hogg. Is Michael Scott in denial about death? Are Pam and Jim ever going to figure things out? Is David Brent an essentialist? Surprisingly, The Office can teach us about the mind, Aristotle, and humiliation. Even more surprisingly, paper companies can allow us to better understand business ethics. Don't believe it? Open this book, and behold its beautiful paper... Join the philosophical fray as we explore the abstract world of philosophy through concrete scenes of the unexamined life in The Office. You may discover that Gareth Keenan is secretly a brilliant logician, that Dwight Schrute is better off deceiving himself, that David Brent is an example of hyperreality, and that Michael Scott is

hopelessly lost (but you probably already knew that!).