



Allan Silverman, professor of philosophy at The Ohio State University, introduces speaker Geoffrey Brennan for his event at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies.



Geoffrey Brennan, professor of economics at Australian National University and distinguished research professor at Duke University and University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill speaks to the Mershon Center on Friday, February 18, 2011 at 3:30 in the afternoon.



Geoffrey Brennan's discussion was based off of a paper that is a response to a line of argument developed in a 1999 paper by Al Goldman and endorsed with minor modifications in Richard Tuck's book *Free-Riding* (Harvard University Press, 2008). The argument seeks to extend the scope of voter responsibility by appeal to a broadened account of causal efficacy. Goldman sees this argument as supplying moral reasons why individuals should vote and also as explaining why so many of them do vote. Brennan argued that in the voting case responsibility and causal efficacy should be maintained as independent notions, that Goldman's line yields the wrong advice for action-guidingness, and that the explanatory argument appeals to dubious logic.



Geoffrey Brennan is co-director of UNC's Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Program with Geoff Sayre-McCord, Morehead Alumni distinguished professor at UNC Chapel Hill, pictured on the left. They are also co-authors of the paper, "Voting and 'Causal Responsibility.'"



Allan Silverman, professor of philosophy at The Ohio State University talks with event attendees after Geoffrey Brennan's lecture.



Pictured from left to right: Allan Silverman, professor of philosophy, The Ohio State University, Geoff Sayre-McCord, Morehead Alumni distinguished professor at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and Geoffrey Brennan, professor of economics at Australian National University and distinguished research professor at Duke University and UNC- Chapel Hill.