

Three Questions about Stoic Blends

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This paper explores some questions in contemporary metaphysics arising from the notion of a *stoic blend*. A stoic blend is (very roughly) a mixture of two substances where for any portion of the mixture (no matter how small), the portion has a bit of both substances as parts. A stoic blend is different from two other conceivable sorts of mixtures: (i) a *juxtaposition*, where two substances are mixed though not ‘through and through’, like, say, a mixture of black and white marbles; and (ii) a *fusion*, where two substances are mixed though the resulting mixture destroys the original two substances and a new substance is created. This paper will focus on the following three questions about stoic blends.

First, *what are stoic blends?* The above characterization of a blend is very rough; what could it mean to say that two substances are blended through and through? The first part of the paper explores two contemporary rival interpretations of a blend. They differ with respect to whether the two substances come to be co-located after the blend: whereas the first view accepts the thesis that the substances come to be co-located, the second view denies this by insisting that the two substances fail to be located anywhere after the blend (and thus are not co-located, given that they are not located anywhere at all).

Second, *where are stoic blends?* The second part of the paper explores a difficulty with the latter interpretation. As it turns out, it is difficult to even state the latter interpretation consistently given some popular theories of location in the literature. The second part of the paper, therefore, will explore some issues arising from the relationship between contemporary theories of location and stoic blends.

Third, *do stoic blends persist?* This question stems from the following famous question: do material objects, in general, endure or do they perdure (or do they persist in some other way)? Cards on the table: I am most tempted by endurantism. However, stoic blends (assuming they can persist through time and assuming one of the rival interpretations mentioned above) generate a problem for endurantism. According to the most popular characterization of endurantism in the literature, it turns out that stoic blends cannot endure (by definition!). The third part of this paper offers a new version of endurantism which (though in the same spirit as the standard version of endurantism) does not rule out the possibility of stoic blends enduring through time.