TOM DONALDSON, Simon Fraser University
Abstraction and Modality

In The Foundations of Arithmetic, Frege put much emphasis on "abstraction principles" such as this one, arguing that such principles are analytic:

The shape of x = the shape of y if and only if x is similar to y.

Neo-Fregean abstractionists today continue to defend this view. I will consider abstraction principles in the context of modal and tense logic, arguing that neo-Fregean abstractionism conflicts with both "serious presentism" and "serious actualism".