## 'Is that all there is?'

## Michael Smith (Princeton University)

My aim in this paper is to say a little about the idea that life is absurd, about the nature of self-fulfilment, and about the relationship between the absurdity of life on the one hand and self-fulfilment on the other. More specifically, (i) I clarify what it means to say that a human life is absurd; (ii) I take issue with Joel Feinberg's suggestion that a human life may be pointless and yet saved from tragedy by being fulfilled; (iii) I take issue with Feinberg's suggestion that it is incoherent to suppose that human life as such is absurd; (iv) I argue that human life as such might well be absurd; and (v) I make some suggestions about how we might respond to the absurdity of human life as such.