

CONFERÊNCIA DE ROBERT C. BISHOP

Free Will and the Causal Closure of Physics

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Abstract: Traditionally, debates about free will and action have focused on the possible implications of determinism. Here, I want to argue that there is a more fundamental worry for any understandings of action and free will that humans want to pursue. This more fundamental worry is the causal closure of physics: All physical effects are fully determined by the states of elementary particles and the acting on them. If we live in a world where the most elementary domain of physics is causally closed to any other influences, then action and free will would vanish. I will offer some reasons to think that physics is not causally closed so that elementary particles and forces do not globally determine human behaviors; hence, free will is not threatened after all. What elementary particles and forces provide are limits on the space of possibilities for human choices and actions.



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