

Department of Philosophy Colloquium

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“Anti-humeanism and logical atomism”

Abstract: Logical atomism is the view that reality is fundamentally logically simple – logically complex truths are mere ‘logical constructions’ out of fundamental atomic propositions. Anti-humeanism is the view that our world contains fundamental modal structure, such as laws of nature, chances, causal relations, and the like. Each of these views is attractive on its own, but the two are not easily combined. Given plausible background assumptions, logical atomism is incompatible with the common anti-humean idea that natural modality has either laws or essences as its ultimate source (and, moreover, alternative anti-humean approaches in the literature fare no better). This talk will explore these tensions and the prospects for resolving them. I argue that a particularist version of anti-humeanism can be fruitfully combined with logical atomism but requires abandoning one common anti-humean idea about the nature of induction.

October 18, 2024, at 3:30 pm
Room #6191 H.C. White Hall