

Philosophy of Science: Essay Two

Requirements

You are to submit one 8–10 page research paper on Monday 16 December, addressing one and only one of the questions listed below. An electronic copy of the paper must be submitted by email to bradley.weslake@rochester.edu.

Guidelines

Essay guidelines are available here: <http://goo.gl/jrx25>

Questions

- Explain and evaluate the thesis that Cartwright (1994) calls *fundamentalism*, addressing the following question:
 - Sklar (2003) distinguishes two arguments for fundamentalism. One argument concerns what things are made of. Another argument concerns the way in which fundamental and non-fundamental theories relate to one another. Explain and evaluate these arguments.
- Explain and evaluate the Mill-Ramsey-Lewis account of laws of nature, addressing the following questions (Loewer 1996; Psillos 2002):
 - How does the account improve on the basic regularity view of laws?
 - How does the account allow for uninstantiated laws?
- Explain and evaluate Carroll's argument for the claim that the nomological facts are not grounded in the non-modal facts, addressing the following questions: (Beebe 2000; Carroll 1990).
 - How does Carroll's argument improve on other arguments, involving thought experiments, for the same conclusion?
 - Explain and evaluate the modal principle employed by Carroll in his argument.

References

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- Nancy Cartwright. 1994. "Fundamentalism vs. the Patchwork of Laws", in *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, Vol. 94, pp. 279–292. Reprinted in Papineau (1996, pp. 314–326) and Cartwright (1999, pp. 23–34).
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- Barry Loewer. 1996. "Humean Supervenience", in *Philosophical Topics*, Vol. 24, No. 1, Spring 1996, pp. 101–127. Reprinted in Carroll (2004, pp. 176–206).
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- Stathis Psillos. 2002. "The Regularity View of Laws", in *Causation and Explanation*, McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal, pp. 137–158.
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