

## Evidence and Singular Causes

PHIL 285

Winter 2014

Thursday, 1-3:50 pm, H&SS 7077

Nancy Cartwright

Office hours: Thursday 4-5 pm and Friday, 3-4 pm in H&SS 7023

### Requirements

TBD

For graduate students in Philosophy, this seminar can be counted toward either the Philosophy of Science distribution requirement or the Metaphysics & Epistemology distribution requirement.

### Readings

Week 1 (January 9)

Some classics

- G. E. M. Anscombe, 'Causality and Determination', inaugural lecture delivered at Cambridge University in 1971. Also chapter 13 in *From Metaphysics to the Philosophy of Mind*, University of Minnesota Press, 1981, 133-147.
- H. L. A. Hart & Tony Honore, 'Causation and Common Sense', chapter 2 in *Causation in the Law*, Oxford University Press, 1985 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), 26-61.

Week 2 (January 16)

Generic vs. Singular Causation

- Christopher Hitchcock, 'The Mishap at Reichenbach Fall: Singular vs. General Causation', *Philosophical Studies*, 78, 1995, 257-291.
- Federica Russo & Jon Williamson, 'Generic versus Single-case Causality: The Case of Autopsy', *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, 1, 2011, 47-69.

Week 3 (January 23)

Generalizing from Single Case Studies

- Mary Kennedy, 'Generalizing from Single Case Studies', *Evaluation Quarterly*, 3, 1979, 661-678.
- Nancy Cartwright, 'Case Studies: Can they be as good gold?', ms. To be presented by Nancy.

Week 4 (January 30)

Singular Causation in Historical Explanation

- Peter Abell, 'Narrative Explanation: An Alternative to Variable-Centered Explanation?', *Annual Review of Sociology*, 30, 2004, 287-310.
- Julian Reiss, 'Counterfactuals, Thought Experiments, and Singular Causal Analysis in History', *Philosophy of Science*, 76, 2009, 712-723.

#### Week 5 (February 6)

##### Causation in the Social Sciences

- Frederick Schauer, 'Causation Theory and the Causes of Sexual Violence', *American Bar Foundation Research Journal*, 12, 1987, 737-770.
- Joseph Maxwell, 'Causal Explanation, Qualitative Research, and Scientific Inquiry in Education', *Educational Researcher*, 33, 2004, 3-11.
- Dominick Rizzi and Stig Andur Pedersen, 'Causality in Medicine: Towards a Theory and Terminology', *Theoretical Medicine*, 13, 1992, 233-254.

#### Week 6 (February 13)

##### Evidence

- Julian Reiss, 'A Theory of Inferential Judgement', ms.
- Julian Reiss, 'Empirical Evidence: Its Nature and Sources', in *Handbook of Philosophy of Social Science* (ed. by Ian Jarvie and Jesús Zamora Bonilla), SAGE, 2011, 551-576.
- Julian Reiss, 'Evidence-based economics: What it is and what it isn't', chapter 1 in *Error in Economics*, Routledge, 2008, 1-20.

#### Week 7 (February 20)

##### Evidence and Induction

- John Norton, 'A Material Theory of Induction', *Philosophy of Science*, 70, 2003, 647-670.
- John Norton, 'Analogy', ms.

##### Evidence and Scientific Confirmation

- Laura Snyder, 'Consilience, Confirmation, and Realism', in *Scientific Evidence: Philosophical Theories and Applications* (ed. by Peter Achinstein), Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005, 129-150.
- Ronald Giere, 'Testing Theoretical Hypotheses', *Minnesota Studies in Philosophy of Science*, 10, 1983, 269-298.

#### Week 8 (February 27)

##### Evidence and Prediction

- Nancy Cartwright, 'Evidence, argument, and prediction', in *EPSA11 Perspectives and Foundational Problems in Philosophy of Science, The European Philosophy of Science Association Proceedings 2* (eds. V. Karakostas and D. Dieks), Springer, 2013, 3-17.
- Denis Phillips, 'Adding Complexity: Philosophical Perspectives on the Relationship Between Evidence and Policy', in *Evidence and Decision Making: 106<sup>th</sup> NSSE Yearbook* (ed. By Pamela Moss), Blackwell, 2007, 376-402.

Week 9 (March 6)

A Case Study

- Edna Ulman-Margalit, *Out of the Cave: A Philosophical Inquiry into the Dead Sea Scrolls Research*, Harvard University Press, 2006.

Week 10 (March 13)

Aggregating Evidence

- Jacob Stegenga, 'Is Meta-Analysis the Platinum Standard of Evidence?', *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, 42, 2011, 497-507.
- Jacob Stegenga, 'An Impossibility Theorem for Amalgamating Evidence', *Synthese*, 190, 2013, 2391-2411.
- Bert Leuridan, paper TBD.