

'Indeterminacy in the World'

Mount Everest has a boundary, but this boundary seems vague, or indeterminate. Could such indeterminacy be worldly or metaphysical, as opposed to merely epistemic (a matter of ignorance) or semantic (a matter of imprecision in our language)? Some have thought that this and other cases (quantum superpositions, the open future) do involve genuinely metaphysical indeterminacy. Most such accounts, however, have supposed that such indeterminacy involves its being indeterminate which of various determinate states of affairs obtain. Here I offer an alternative understanding of metaphysical indeterminacy based in the determinable/determinate relation, associated, e.g., with the relation between red (as determinable) and scarlet (as more specific determinate). In particular, I suggest that metaphysical indeterminacy involves the obtaining of a determinable state of affairs, that is either not further determined, or else is multiply determined. My account, I argue, makes better sense of vague boundaries, quantum superpositions, and the open future.