



Hume's Defence of Causal Inference

FRED WILSON

Humes Defence Of Causal Inference

Erwin Tegtmeier



Humes Defence Of Causal Inference:

Hume's Defence of Causal Inference Fred Wilson, 1997 The Scottish philosopher David Hume 1711-76 has long been considered a sceptic on the subject of induction or causal inference. In this book Fred Wilson convincingly reconstructs the Humean position showing that Hume was in fact able to defend causal inference as a reasonable practice by using an alternative set of cognitive standards. Wilson demonstrates the workability of Hume's approach to causal reasoning by relating it to more recent discussions for example to Bayesian views of scientific inference and to Kuhn's account of scientific rationality. He also presents a variety of intriguing related topics including a detailed discussion of Hume's treatment of miracles. As a whole this work successfully argues that insofar as Hume presented philosophy with the problem of induction it is also true that he solved it.

Hume's Epistemology in the Treatise Frederick F. Schmitt, 2014-01-30 Frederick F. Schmitt offers a systematic interpretation of David Hume's epistemology as it is presented in the indispensable *A Treatise of Human Nature*. Hume's text alternately manifests scepticism, empiricism, and naturalism in epistemology. Interpretations of his epistemology have tended to emphasise one of these apparently conflicting positions over the others. But Schmitt argues that the positions can be reconciled by tracing them to a single underlying epistemology of knowledge and probability quietly at work in the text: an epistemology according to which truth is the chief cognitive merit of a belief and knowledge and probable belief are species of reliable belief. Hume adopts Locke's dichotomy between knowledge and probability and reassigns causal inference from its traditional place in knowledge to the domain of probability, his most significant departure from earlier accounts of cognition. This shift of causal inference to an associative and imaginative operation raises doubts about the merit of causal inference, suggesting the counterintuitive consequence that causal inference is wholly inferior to knowledge-producing demonstration. To defend his associationist psychology of causal inference from this suggestion, Hume must favourably compare causal inference with demonstration in a manner compatible with associationism. He does this by finding an epistemic status shared by demonstrative knowledge and causally inferred beliefs: the status of justified belief. On the interpretation developed here, he identifies knowledge with infallible belief and justified belief with reliable belief, i.e. belief produced by truth-conducive belief-forming operations. Since infallibility implies reliable belief, knowledge implies justified belief. He then argues that causally inferred beliefs are reliable, so share this status with knowledge. Indeed, Hume assumes that causally inferred beliefs enjoy this status in his very argument for associationism. On the reliability interpretation, Hume's accounts of knowledge and justified belief are part of a broader veritistic epistemology making true belief the chief epistemic value and goal of science. The veritistic interpretation advanced here contrasts with interpretations on which the chief epistemic value of belief is its empirical adequacy, stability, or fulfilment of a natural function, as well as with the suggestion that the chief value of belief is its utility for common life. Veritistic interpretations are offered of the natural function of belief, the rules of causal inference, scepticism about body and matter, and the criteria of justification. As

Schmitt shows there is much attention to Hume's sources in Locke and to the complexities of his epistemic vocabulary

David Hume Claudia M. Schmidt, 2010-11-01 In his seminal *Philosophy of David Hume* 1941 Norman Kemp Smith called for a study of Hume for Hume specialists as a unified and intriguing interpretation of his thought for philosophers generally as a synthesis of recent developments in Hume scholarship and for scholars in other disciplines as a guide to Hume's contributions to their own fields

Hume on Causation Helen Beebe, 2006-09-27 Causation is one of the most important and enduring topics in philosophy going back to Aristotle In this important book Helen Beebe covers all the major debates and issues in the philosophy of causation

Studies in the philosophy of Herbert Hochberg Erwin Tegtmeier, 2013-05-02 Herbert Hochberg is one of the most influential analytical philosophers and one of the most influential critics of analytical philosophy He disputed with almost all leading analytical philosophers from Quine Goodman and Wilfrid Sellars to David Lewis and David Armstrong His point of view is ontological and he harks back to the origins of analytical philosophy where he finds unknown precursors of current views And he finds parallels to contemporary non analytic philosophies In his own ontology he tries to dispense with simple particulars

The Bloomsbury Companion to Hume Alan Bailey, Daniel Jayes O'Brien, 2015-07-30 David Hume 1711-1776 philosopher historian and essayist is widely considered to be Britain's greatest philosopher One of the leading intellectual figures of the Scottish Enlightenment his major works and central ideas especially his radical empiricism and his critique of the pretensions of philosophical rationalism remain hugely influential on contemporary philosophers This comprehensive and accessible guide to Hume's life and work includes 21 specially commissioned essays written by a team of leading experts covering every aspect of Hume's thought The Companion presents details of Hume's life historical and philosophical context providing students with a comprehensive overview of all the key themes and topics apparent in his work including his accounts of causal reasoning scepticism the soul and the self action reason free will miracles natural religion politics human nature women economics and history and an account of his reception and enduring influence This textbook is indispensable to anyone studying in the areas of Hume Studies British and eighteenth century philosophy

Body, Mind and Self in Hume's Critical Realism Fred Wilson, 2013-05-02 This essay proposes that Hume's non substantialist bundle account of minds is basically correct The concept of a person is not a metaphysical notion but a forensic one that of a being who enters into the moral and normative relations of civil society A person is a bundle but it is also a structured bundle Hume's metaphysics of relations is argued must be replaced by a more adequate one such as that of Russell but beyond that Hume's account is essentially correct In particular it is argued that it is one's character that constitutes one's identity and that sympathy and the passions of pride and humility are central in forming and maintaining one's character and one's identity as a person But also central is one's body a person is an embodied consciousness the notion that one's body is essential to one's identity is defended at length Various concepts of mind and consciousness are examined for example neutral monism and intentionality and also the concept of privacy and our

inferences to other minds

The Cambridge Companion to Hume's Treatise Donald C. Ainslie, Annemarie

Butler, 2015-01-26 Revered for his contributions to empiricism skepticism and ethics David Hume remains one of the most important figures in the history of Western philosophy His first and broadest work A Treatise of Human Nature 1739 40 comprises three volumes concerning the understanding the passions and morals He develops a naturalist and empiricist program illustrating that the mind operates through the association of impressions and ideas This Companion features essays by leading scholars that evaluate the philosophical content of the arguments in Hume's Treatise while considering their historical context The authors examine Hume's distinctive views on causation motivation free will moral evaluation and the origins of justice which continue to influence present day philosophical debate This collection will prove a valuable resource for students and scholars exploring Hume British empiricism and modern philosophy

A Companion to Hume Elizabeth

S. Radcliffe, 2011-05-31 Comprised of twenty nine specially commissioned essays A Companion to Hume examines the depth of the philosophies and influence of one of history's most remarkable thinkers Demonstrates the range of Hume's work and illuminates the ongoing debates that it has generated Organized by subject with introductions to each section to orient the reader Explores topics such as knowledge passion morality religion economics and politics Examines the paradoxes of Hume's thought and his legacy covering the methods themes and consequences of his contributions to philosophy

Hume Don

Garrett, 2014-11-13 Beginning with an overview of Hume's life and work Don Garrett introduces in clear and accessible style the central aspects of Hume's thought These include Hume's lifelong exploration of the human mind his theories of inductive inference and causation skepticism and personal identity moral and political philosophy aesthetics and philosophy of religion The final chapter considers the influence and legacy of Hume's thought today Throughout Garrett draws on and explains many of Hume's central works including his Treatise of Human Nature Enquiries Concerning Human Understanding and Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion Hume is essential reading not only for students of philosophy but anyone in the humanities and social sciences and beyond seeking an introduction to Hume's thought

Hume's Imagination Tito

Magri, 2022 Tito Magri proposes a new systematic interpretation of David Hume's account of the imagination in his Treatise of Human Nature This has revisionary implications for the understanding of Hume's philosophy particularly his philosophy of mind naturalism epistemology and stance to scepticism

Hume's Theory of Consciousness Wayne Waxman, 2003-09-18

A comprehensive analysis and re-evaluation of Hume's Treatise of Human Nature

Idealist Alternatives to Materialist

Philosophies of Science, 2019-12-09 Idealist Alternatives to Materialist Philosophies of Science ed Philip MacEwen makes the case that there are other and arguably better ways of understanding science than materialism Philosophical idealism leads the list of challengers but critical realism and various forms of pluralism are fully articulated as well To ensure that the incumbent is adequately represented the volume includes a major defence of materialism naturalism from Anaxagoras to the present Contributors include Leslie Armour John D Norton and Fred Wilson with a Foreword by Nicholas Rescher For anyone

interested in whether materialism has a monopoly on science this volume presents a good case for materialism but a better one for its alternatives **Mencius, Hume and the Foundations of Ethics** Xiusheng Liu, 2017-05-15 What is the most distinctive feature of human nature Does human nature play any significant role in explaining ethical objectivity How do we arrive at moral judgments What is the relationship between moral judgments and moral motivation In answering these questions this book defends a naturalist realist and internalist theory of the foundations of ethics This theory grounded on a particular concept of humanity combines insights from Mencius and David Hume The views of each show how important features left underdeveloped by the other can be supplemented and refined The unified theory that results is a robust contender among current ethical theories This illuminating book relating Chinese and Western philosophical traditions presents a unique account of the unity of the virtues in Mencius breaks new ground in Hume studies through its discussion of the concept of sympathy in Hume's theory and brings combined insights to bear on contemporary analytical theories of ethics

The New Hume Debate Rupert Read, Kenneth Richman, 2002-11 First Published in 2004 Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis an informa company Hume and Contemporary Epistemology Scott Stapleford, Verena Wagner, 2024-10-28 This is the first edited collection dedicated to demonstrating Hume's relevance to contemporary debates in epistemology It features original essays by Hume scholars and epistemologists that address a wide range of important questions including the following What does a Humean conception of knowledge look like How do Hume's understanding of belief and suspension of judgement bear on current debates about doxastic attitudes Is there a Humean way of uniting reasons in the epistemic and practical domains What is the proper role of reason at the foundations of ethics and epistemology from a Humean point of view What contribution might an examination of Humean scepticism make to understanding of current sceptical hypotheses Is Hume a hinge epistemologist Does naturalized epistemology trace back to Hume Does Hume have an ethics of belief What can Hume contribute to virtue and vice epistemology Some chapters try to bring historically accurate interpretations of Hume's ideas into contact with current issues while others will take ideas merely suggested by Hume and demonstrate their philosophical usefulness Together they demonstrate Hume's enduring relevance for debates about knowledge belief inquiry and suspension reasons modal knowledge scepticism hinge epistemology naturalized epistemology the ethics of belief and moral epistemology virtue and vice epistemology and the epistemology of testimony Hume and Contemporary Epistemology will be of interest to scholars and advanced students working on Hume epistemology and the history of philosophy *David Hume* Terence Penelhum, 1992 This volume provides a general account of the philosophy of David Hume in a way that shows that he is contrary to common belief a highly systematic thinker whose thought and personality are closely related it is also designed to assist the reader to make the most informed use of the rich resources of contemporary Hume scholarship

Gustav Bergmann Bruno Langlet, Jean-Maurice Monnoyer, 2013-05-02 The texts of the book are concerned with G Bergmann's open and new problems and their active role on issues in contemporary metaphysics like the ontology of ties

connexions and relations problems of exemplification substrates and tropes theories particulars persistence and the metaphysics of space time and existence Papers deal with these themes by themselves or discuss them in an associated way some of them aim to clarify the complicated conceptual Relations Bergmann have enlarged with major themes of philosophers like Aristotle Brentano Meinong and Sellars The purpose of the book is to provide some light on his central interests but also in regard of the evolution of the actual scope of his thought **Hume's Epistemological Evolution**

Hsueh Qu,2020 Hume's Epistemological Evolution argues that Hume's Enquiry represents a significant departure from the Treatise in respect of its epistemological framework The Treatise's treatment of skepticism is an unsatisfactory one as Hume seems to realize and he therefore forms a new epistemological framework in the Enquiry Qu's central argument is that Hume's epistemology evolves between these two works **Stability and Justification in Hume's Treatise** Louis E.

Loeb,2002-09-19 David Hume's A Treatise of Human Nature is famous for its extreme skepticism Louis Loeb argues that Hume's destructive conclusions have in fact obscured a constructive stage that Hume abandons prematurely Working within a philosophical tradition that values tranquillity Hume favors an epistemology that links justification with settled belief Hume appeals to psychological stability to support his own epistemological assessments both favorable regarding causal inference and unfavorable regarding imaginative propensities The theory's success in explaining Hume's epistemic distinctions gives way to pessimism since Hume contends that reflection on beliefs is deeply destabilizing So much the worse Hume concludes for placing a premium on reflection Hume endorses and defends the position that stable beliefs of unreflective persons are justified though they would not survive reflection At the same time Hume relishes the paradox that unreflective beliefs enjoy a preferred epistemic status and strains to establish it Loeb introduces a series of amendments to the Treatise that secures a more positive result for justified belief while maintaining Hume's fundamental principles In his review of Hume's applications of his epistemology Loeb uncovers a stratum of psychological doctrine beyond associationism a theory of conditions in which beliefs are felt to conflict and of the resolution of this uneasiness or dissonance This theory of mental conflict is also essential to Hume's strategy for integrating empiricism about meaning with his naturalism However Hume fails to provide a general account of the conditions in which conflicting beliefs lead to persisting instability so his theory is incomplete Loeb explores Hume's concern with stability in reference to his discussions of belief education the probability of causes unphilosophical probability the belief in body sympathy and moral judgment and the passions among other topics

The Top Books of the Year Humes Defence Of Causal Inference The year 2023 has witnessed a noteworthy surge in literary brilliance, with numerous captivating novels enthralling the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of top-selling books, exploring the captivating narratives that have captivated audiences this year. Humes Defence Of Causal Inference : Colleen Hoover's "It Ends with Us" This poignant tale of love, loss, and resilience has gripped readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover skillfully weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can prevail. Humes Defence Of Causal Inference : Taylor Jenkins Reids "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This captivating historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reids compelling storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. Discover the Magic : Delia Owens "Where the Crawdads Sing" This captivating coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens spins a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, captivating readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These top-selling novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of captivating stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a masterful and thrilling novel that will keep you wondering until the very end. The novel is a warning tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

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