

Why Philosophical Theories of Laws of Nature are Important

Some philosophical theories of laws of nature entail that there are no free actions and no divine interventions (such as miracles or divine acts of direct creation). I shall propose a theory of the laws which deviates strongly from all other current theories. The other current theories, all influenced by David Hume, in my view are rigged against Christianity.

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1. Thomas Hobbes's determinism implies that man has no free will, that God did not create any animals or organs directly, and that God never does miracles.
2. David Hume: Laws of nature are regularities of succession, i.e. regularities of the form 'Events of type x are always followed by events of type y'.
3. The implication of the belief in regularities of succession for Christian faith.
4. The most prominent philosophical theories of laws of nature still assume the existence of regularities of succession.
5. An alternative theory: A law of nature says that there are forces (tendencies, directions) in situations of certain types.

6. The resulting view of the causal structure of the world.

Suggested Readings:

Wachter, Daniel von, 2015, 'Miracles are not violations of the laws of nature because laws do not entail regularities', *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 7 (2015), 37–60, http://von-wachter.de/tmp/Wachter_2015-laws-original.pdf.

Larmer, Robert, 2014, *The Legitimacy of Miracle*.