

EXAMINING SCIENTIFIC NATURALISM

This presentation will be an assessment of scientific naturalism: We will examine the three aspects of Scientific Naturalism as a worldview and explain their interrelationship. Then we will look at several reasons why Scientific Naturalism lacks the epistemological resources and explanatory power to be a rationally acceptable worldview.

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I. Scientific Naturalism as a World View

- A. The Naturalist Epistemology
- B. The Naturalist Grand Story
- C. The Naturalist Ontology
- D. The ordering of these 3 elements in Scientific Naturalism

II. A Critique of Naturalism and a Case for Theism

- A. Two initial considerations
 - 1. The Origin of the Universe
 - 2. Design as fine-tuning and as information
- B. Theism vs. Naturalism re morality and intrinsic value

1. The reality of objective moral obligations
2. Free will and moral responsibility
3. The objectivity of intrinsic value (moral, rational and aesthetic)
4. The reality of high, intrinsic, equal human value

C. The Origin of Consciousness

III. A Critique of Scientism

- A. The self-refuting nature of strong scientism
- B. The Assumptions of Science
- C. The existence of knowledge outside of science (logic, mathematics, morality, self-knowledge, knowledge of other minds)
- D. See J. P. Moreland, *Scientism and Secularism* (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2018)