

The Logical Status of Scientific-Based Arguments for Design

The teleological argument for the existence of God has classically been formulated as either a deductive or an analogical argument. In this talk, Stephen Meyer discusses the advantages of formulating the argument for intelligent design as an abductive inference to the best explanation.

Stephen C. Meyer earned his Ph.D. in the Philosophy of Science from Cambridge University for a dissertation on the history of origin-of-life biology and the methodology of the historical sciences. He also holds degrees in Physics and Geology. He is currently the Director and Senior Fellow of the Center for Science and Culture at the Discovery Institute in Seattle. Previously has worked as a professor of philosophy at Whitworth University and as a geophysicist with the Atlantic Richfield Company. He has authored *Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design* (HarperOne, 2009) which was named a Book of the Year by the *Times* (of London) *Literary Supplement* in 2009. His next book *Darwin's Doubt: The Mysterious Origin of Animal Life and the Case for Intelligent Design* is due to be published on June 18th also with HarperOne. He has written editorials on scientific issues for publications such as *USA Today*, *The National Post* (of Canada), *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Los Angeles Times*.

I. Classical Formulations of the Design Argument

II. Abductive Reasoning

III. Abductive Underdetermination

IV. Strengthening Abductive Inferences: The Method of Multiple Competing Hypotheses

V. Intelligent Design as an Inference to the Best Explanation

VI. The God Hypothesis and “Inference to the Best Explanation”