

Physicalism And Mental Causation The Metaphysics Of Mind And Action By Walter Sven Published By Imprint Academic Hardcover

A Marvelous Metaphysical Meander: Unpacking the Brilliance of "Physicalism and Mental Causation"

Prepare yourselves, dear readers, for a journey that will tickle your intellectual funny bone and leave your philosophical heart singing! Walter Sven's "Physicalism and Mental Causation: The Metaphysics of Mind and Action," published by the estimable Imprint Academic, is not merely a book; it's an exhilarating expedition into the very core of what it means to be a thinking, acting being. Forget dusty tomes of dry discourse; Sven has conjured a captivating tapestry of thought that, dare I say, possesses a most imaginative and surprisingly accessible metaphysical setting. It's a world where concepts dance, arguments sparkle, and the perennial puzzle of how our minds influence our actions is explored with a refreshing blend of rigor and whimsy.

One of the book's most profound strengths, and indeed, a source of its considerable charm, lies in its remarkable emotional depth. While delving into the complexities of physicalism and mental causation, Sven masterfully weaves in relatable human experiences and the profound implications these philosophical quandaries have on our lived realities. You might find yourself chuckling at a particularly clever analogy or experiencing a moment of profound recognition as Sven articulates a thought you've wrestled with yourself. This isn't just abstract contemplation; it's a deeply human exploration that resonates on a visceral level, making it surprisingly universal and, dare I whisper it, appealing to readers of all ages and backgrounds. Imagine a philosophy book that makes you feel understood, even as it challenges you to think bigger and bolder!

Sven's prose is a delight, a sophisticated yet often humorous exploration of challenging ideas. He possesses a rare gift for illuminating the most intricate philosophical debates with clarity and a twinkle in his intellectual eye. The book tackles weighty subjects with an optimism that is truly infectious, encouraging readers not to be daunted by the complexity, but rather to embrace the exciting possibilities of deeper understanding. Whether you're a seasoned academic reader eager to engage with cutting-edge philosophical inquiry, a literature enthusiast who appreciates elegant prose and compelling arguments, or a general reader simply curious about the nature of consciousness and agency, this book offers a rewarding and intellectually stimulating experience.

Here are just a few reasons why "Physicalism and Mental Causation" deserves a prime spot on your bookshelf:

A Playful Approach to Profound Questions: Sven manages to make the dense terrain of metaphysics feel less like a daunting mountain range and more like an intriguing, well-mapped park, complete with insightful signposts and the occasional philosophical picnic spot.

Relatable and Resonant: The book doesn't shy away from the personal impact of philosophical ideas, offering moments of genuine emotional connection and self-discovery.

Accessible Brilliance: Complex concepts are unpacked with remarkable clarity, making the book a joy to read for both initiates and seasoned philosophers.

An Optimistic Outlook: Sven champions the pursuit of knowledge with an encouraging and hopeful spirit, inspiring readers to explore the vast landscape of philosophical thought.

In conclusion, "Physicalism and Mental Causation: The Metaphysics of Mind and Action" is an absolute triumph. It's a book that doesn't just inform; it inspires. It's a testament to the power of clear, engaging prose to unlock the deepest mysteries of our existence. This is not a book that will gather dust; it is a book that will spark conversations, ignite further inquiry, and become a cherished companion on your intellectual journey. It is, without a shadow of a doubt, a **timeless classic worth experiencing** to inform your understanding of the human condition.

With a heartfelt recommendation, I urge you to embark on this magical journey. Walter Sven has penned a work that continues to capture hearts worldwide, not just for its intellectual prowess, but for its sheer ability to make us think, feel, and marvel at the wonders of the mind. This book's lasting impact is undeniable, a shining beacon in the realm of philosophical exploration.

We wholeheartedly recommend "Physicalism and Mental Causation" for its exceptional contribution to the field and its enduring power to enlighten and engage readers. This is a book that celebrates the enduring impact of well-crafted philosophical thought.

Physicalism and Mental Causation
Causation and Responsibility
Mental Causation and Ontology
Fundamental Causation
The Facts of Causation
Averroes and the Metaphysics of Causation
A Powerful Particulars View of Causation
Causation, Explanation, and the Metaphysics of Aspect
Truth, Knowledge and Causation
Causation
Alternative Approaches to Causation
Causation
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The Metaphysics of the School: (pt. 1) Book 5 [cont'd]
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physicalism the thesis that everything there is in the world including our minds is constituted by basic physical entities has dominated the philosophy of mind during the last few decades but although the conceptual foundations of the physicalist agenda including a proper explication of notions such as causation determination realization or even physicalism itself must be settled before more specific problems e g the problems of mental causation and human agency can be satisfactorily addressed a comprehensive philosophical reflection on the relationships between the various key concepts of the debate on physicalism is yet missing this book presents a range of essays on the conceptual foundations of physicalism mental causation and human agency written by established and leading authors in the field

the concept of causation is fundamental to ascribing moral and legal responsibility for events yet the relationship between causation and responsibility remains unclear what precisely is the connection between the concept of causation used in attributing responsibility and the accounts of causal relations offered in the philosophy of science and metaphysics how much of what we call causal responsibility is in truth defined by non causal factors this book argues that much of the legal doctrine on these questions is confused and incoherent and offers the first comprehensive attempt since hart and honor [2] to clarify the philosophical background to the legal and moral debates the book first sets out the place of causation in criminal and tort law and outlines the metaphysics presupposed by the legal doctrine it then analyses the best theoretical accounts of causation in the philosophy of science and metaphysics and using these accounts criticises many of the core legal concepts surrounding causation such as intervening causation foreseeability of harm and complicity it considers and rejects the radical proposals to eliminate the notion of causation from law by using risk analysis to attribute responsibility the result of the analysis is a powerful argument for revising our understanding of the role played by causation in the attribution of legal and moral responsibility

an international team of contributors presents new work on the importance of ontology for a central debate in philosophy of mind mental causation has been a hotly disputed topic in recent years with reductive and non reductive physicalists vying with each other and with dualists over how to accommodate or else to challenge two widely accepted metaphysical principles the principle of the causal closure of the physical domain and the principle of causal non overdetermination which together appear to support reductive physicalism despite the latter's lack of intuitive appeal current debate about these matters appears to have reached something of an impasse prompting the question of why this should be so one possibility is that while this debate makes extensive use of ontological vocabulary by talking for instance of substances events states properties powers and relations relatively little attempt has been made within the debate itself to achieve either clarity or agreement about what precisely such terms should be taken to mean the debate has become somewhat detached from broader developments in metaphysics and ontology which have lately been proceeding apace providing us with an increasingly rich and refined set of ontological categories upon which to draw as well as a much deeper understanding of how they are related to one another in this volume leading metaphysicians and philosophers of mind reflect afresh upon the problem of mental causation in the light of some of these recent developments with a view to making new headway with one of the most challenging and seemingly intractable issues in contemporary philosophy

fundamental causation addresses issues in the metaphysics of deterministic singular causation the metaphysics of events property instances facts preventions and omissions as well as the debate between causal reductionists and causal anti reductionists the book also pays special attention to causation and causal structure in physics weaver argues that causation is a multigrade obtaining relation that is transitive irreflexive and asymmetric when causation is singular deterministic and such that it relates purely contingent events the relation is also universal intrinsic and well founded he shows that proper causal relata are events understood as states of substances at ontological indices he then proves that causation cannot be reduced to some non causal base and that the best account of that relation should be unashamedly primitivist about the dependence relation that underwrites its very nature the book demonstrates a distinctive realist and anti reductionist account of causation by detailing precisely how the account outperforms reductionist and competing anti reductionist accounts in that it handles all of the difficult cases while overcoming all of the general objections to anti reductionism upon which other anti reductionist accounts falter this book offers an original and interesting view of causation and will appeal to scholars and advanced students in the areas of metaphysics philosophy of science and philosophy of physics

everything we do relies on causation we eat and drink because this causes us to stay alive courts tell us who causes crimes criminology tell us what causes people to commit them d b mellor shows us that to understand the world and our lives we must understand causation the facts of causation now available in paperback is essential reading for students and for anyone interested in reading one of the ground breaking theories in metaphysics we cannot understand the world and our place in it without understanding causation yet a complete account of the nature and implications of causation does not exist d b mellor's new book is that account

averroes and the metaphysics of causation examines the controversial causation issue that causes produce their effects and can be known to do so is the view that averroes defends in his *tahafut al tahafut* where he summarizes and evaluates the debates about causation debates that took place over several generations between the philosophers and the theologians of medieval islam drawing from his *tahafut* his commentaries and other writings kogan shows that averroes discussion of causation represents a dialogue across the generations and a rich contribution to the history of the causal controversy averroes responds to al ghazali's proto humean critique of the philosophers account which treats causation as an entailment relation in this response averroes develops an independent position that is of philosophical interest because it clearly anticipates many of the contemporary responses to hume associated with the singularist position building on this analysis kogan resolves many long standing paradoxes in averroes treatment of miracles eternal creation god's causal knowing and the theory of emanation

this book critically examines the recent discussions of powers and powers based accounts of causation the author then develops an original view of powers based causation that aims to be compatible with the theories and findings of natural science recently there has been a dramatic revival of realist approaches to properties and causation which focus on the relevance of aristotelian metaphysics and the notion of powers for a scientifically informed view of causation in this book r d ingthorsson argues that one central feature of powers based accounts of causation is arguably incompatible with what is today recognised as fact in the sciences notably that all interactions are thoroughly reciprocal ingthorsson's powerful particulars view of causation accommodates for the reciprocity of interactions it also draws out the consequences of that view for issue of causal necessity and offers a way to understand the constitution and persistence of compound objects as causal phenomena furthermore ingthorsson argues that compound entities so understood are just as much processes as they are substances a powerful particulars view of causation will be of great interest to scholars and advanced students working in metaphysics philosophy of science and neo aristotelian philosophy while also being accessible for a general audience the open access version of this book available at taylorfrancis.com/books/9781003094241 has been made available under a creative commons attribution non commercial no derivatives 4 0 license

when you light a match it is the striking of it which causes the lighting the presence of oxygen in the room is a background condition to the lighting but in virtue of what is the striking a cause while the presence of oxygen is a background condition when a fragile glass breaks it manifests a disposition to break when struck however not everything that breaks manifests this disposition so under what conditions does something in breaking manifest fragility after some therapy a man might stop being irascible and he might lose the disposition to become angry at the slightest provocation if he does then he will have lost the disposition after an internal change can someone lose or gain a disposition merely as a result of a change in its external circumstances facts about the structure of society can it seems explain other facts but how do they do it are there different kinds of structural explanations many things are said to be causes a rock when we say that the rock caused the window to break and an event when we say that the striking of the window caused its breakage which kind of causation causation by events or causation by things is more basic in causation explanation and the metaphysics of aspect bradford skow defends answers to these questions his answers rely on a pair of connected distinctions first is the distinction between acting or doing something and not acting second is the distinction between situations in which an event happens and situations in which instead something is in some state the first distinction is used to draw the second an event happens if and only if something does something

originally published in 1969 this book examines the fundamental concepts of metaphysics and of theory of knowledge topics treated include the nature of substance and of causation their relation to natural laws dispositions and attributes the nature of consciousness and purposiveness of symbols signs and signals and their relation to interpretation and objective reference and the nature and criteria of truth the author holds that philosophy is by intent a science and that its becoming so requires precise and

non arbitrary semantical analysis of basic philosophical terms he argues that philosophy then like the other sciences has practical importance in its case this consists in its capacity to give to difficult practical decisions not only the efficacy insured by its application of the findings of the other sciences but in addition some of the wisdom which is philosophy's distinctive ultimate aim

causation is the most fundamental connection in the universe without it there would be no science or technology there would be no moral responsibility either as none of our thoughts would be connected with our actions and none of our actions with any consequences nor would we have a system of law because blame resides only in someone having caused injury or damage any intervention we make in the world around us is premised on there being causal connections that are to a degree predictable it is causation that is at the basis of prediction and also explanation this very short introduction introduces the key theories of causation and also the surrounding debates and controversies do causes produce their effects by guaranteeing them do causes have to precede their effects can causation be reduced to the forces of physics and are we right to think of causation as one single thing at all about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

this volume focuses on alternatives to the two main philosophical approaches to causation mechanistic explanation and explanation in terms of difference making it explores the pluralistic the fictionalist the inferentialist and the informational approaches as well as the application of various approaches to natural and social sciences

causation is at once familiar and mysterious many believe that the causal relation is not directly observable but that we nevertheless can somehow detect its presence in the world common sense seems to have a firm grip on causation and much work in the natural and social sciences relies on the idea yet neither common sense nor extensive philosophical debate has led us to anything like agreement on the correct analysis of the concept of causation or an account of the metaphysical nature of the causal relation contemporary debates are driven by opposing motivations conflicting intuitions and unarticulated methodological assumptions causation a user's guide cuts a clear path through this confusing but vital landscape l a paul and ned hall guide the reader through the most important philosophical treatments of causation negotiating the terrain by taking a set of examples as landmarks special attention is given to counterfactual and related analyses of causation using a methodological principle based on the close examination of potential counterexamples they clarify the central themes of the debate about causation and cover questions about causation involving omissions or absences preemption and other species of redundant causation and the possibility that causation is not transitive along the way paul and hall examine several contemporary proposals for analyzing the nature of causation and assess their merits and overall methodological cogency the book is designed to be of value both to trained specialists and those coming to the problem of causation for the first time it provides the reader with a broad and sophisticated view of the metaphysics of the causal relation

making a difference presents fifteen original essays on causation and counterfactuals by an international team of experts collectively they represent the state of the art on these topics the essays in this volume are inspired by the life and work of peter menzies who made a difference in the lives of students colleagues and friends topics covered include the semantics of counterfactuals agency theories of causation the context sensitivity of causal claims structural equation models mechanisms mental causation causal exclusion argument free will and the consequence argument

this book published in 2000 is a clear account of causation based firmly in contemporary science dowe discusses in a systematic way a positive account of causation the conserved quantities account of causal processes which he has been developing over the last ten years the book describes causal processes and interactions in terms of conserved quantities a causal process is the worldline of an object which possesses a conserved quantity and a causal interaction involves the exchange of conserved quantities further things that are properly called cause and effect are appropriately connected by a set of causal processes and interactions the distinction between cause and effect is explained in terms of a version of the fork theory the direction of a certain kind of ordered pattern of events in the world this particular version has the virtue that it allows for the possibility of backwards causation and therefore time travel

perhaps more than any other scholar michael moore has argued that there are deep and necessary connections between metaphysics morality and law moore has developed every contour of a theory of criminal law from philosophy of action to a theory of causation indeed not only is he the central figure in retributive punishment but his moral realist position places him at the center of many jurisprudential debates comprised of essays by leading scholars this volume discusses and challenges the work of michael moore from one or more of the areas where he has made a lasting contribution namely law morality metaphysics psychiatry and neuroscience the volume begins with a riveting contribution by heidi hurd wherein she takes an unadorned and unabashed look at the man behind this monumental body of work full of both triumphs and sadness a number of essays focus on moore's view of the purpose and justification of the criminal law specifically his endorsement of retributivism and legal moralism the book then addresses moore's work in the various aspects of the criminal law including moore's position on how to understand criminal acts for double jeopardy purposes moore's claim that accomplice liability is superfluous and moore's views about

the culpability of negligence as well as the relationship between that view and proximate causation furthermore the subject of defenses in criminal law is addressed including self defense and also the intersection of psychiatry psychology cognitive neuroscience and the criminal law also discussed are features of morality and moore s work in general jurisprudence finally moore concludes the volume with an essay that defends and delineates the features of his views

questions central tenets of the current philosophical consensus about mechanisms and develops the novel alternative of methodological mechanism

this element presents the main attempts to account for causation as a metaphysical concept in terms of 1 regularities and laws of nature 2 conditional probabilities and bayes nets 3 necessitation between universals and causal powers 4 counterfactual dependence 5 interventions and causal models and 6 processes and mechanisms none of these accounts can provide a complete reductive analysis however some provide the means to distinguish several useful concepts of causation such as total cause contributing cause direct and indirect cause and actual cause moreover some of these accounts can be construed so as to complement each other the last part presents some contemporary debates on the relation between grounding and causation eliminativism with respect to causation in physics the challenge against downward causation from the closure and exclusion principles robust and proportional causation and degrees of causation this title is also available as open access on cambridge core

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