

OXFORD

REDUCTION EXPLANATION AND REALISM

Edited by

DAVID CHARLES AND
KATHLEEN LENNON

Reduction Explanation And Realism

Brian Leiter, Neil Sinhababu



Reduction Explanation And Realism:

Reduction, Explanation, and Realism David Owain Maurice Charles, 1992 What is reduction Must all discussions of the mind value colour biological organisms and persons aim to reduce these to objects and properties that can be studied by more basic physical science Conversely does failure to achieve a reduction undermine the legitimacy of higher levels of description or explanation In recent years philosophers have attempted to avoid these traditional alternatives by developing an account of higher level phenomena which shows them to be grounded in but not reducible to basic physical objects and properties The contributors to this volume examine the motivations for such anti reductionist views and assess their coherence and success in a number of different fields Their essays constitute a unified discussion into which the reader is led by an introductory chapter where the editors set out some of the central claims and questions **The Concept of**

Reduction Raphael van Riel, 2014-02-19 This volume investigates the notion of reduction Building on the idea that philosophers employ the term reduction to reconcile diversity and directionality with unity without relying on elimination the book offers a powerful explication of an ontological notion of reduction the extension of which is primarily formed by properties kinds individuals or processes It argues that related notions of reduction such as theory reduction and functional reduction should be defined in terms of this explication Thereby the book offers a coherent framework which sheds light on the history of the various reduction debates in the philosophy of science and in the philosophy of mind and on related topics such as reduction and unification the notion of a scientific level and physicalism The book takes its point of departure in the examination of a puzzle about reduction To illustrate the book takes as an example the reduction of water If water reduces to H₂O then water is identical to H₂O thus we get unity Unity does not come at the price of elimination claiming that water reduces to H₂O we do not thereby claim that there is no water But what about diversity and directionality Intuitively there should be a difference between water and H₂O such that we get diversity This is required for there to be directionality in a sense if water reduces to H₂O then H₂O is prior to or more basic than water At least if water reduces to H₂O then H₂O does not reduce to water But how can this be if water is identical to H₂O The book shows that the application of current models of reduction does not solve this puzzle and proposes a new coherent definition according to which unity is tied to identity diversity is descriptive in nature and directionality is the directionality of explanation Promises and Limits of

Reductionism in the Biomedical Sciences Marc H. V. Van Regenmortel, David L. Hull, 2003-02-07 Reductionism as a scientific methodology has been extraordinarily successful in biology However recent developments in molecular biology have shown that reductionism is seriously inadequate in dealing with the mind boggling complexity of integrated biological systems This title presents an appropriate balance between science and philosophy and covers traditional philosophical treatments of reductionism as well as the benefits and shortcomings of reductionism in particular areas of science Discussing the issue of reductionism in the practice of medicine it takes into account the holistic and integrative aspects that require the context of

the patient in his biological and psychological entirety The emerging picture is that what first seems like hopeless disagreements turn out to be differences in emphasis Although genes play an important role in biology the focus on genetics and genomics has often been misleading The consensus view leads to pluralism both reductionist methods and a more integrative approach to biological complexity are required depending on the questions that are asked An even balance of contributions from scientists and philosophers of science representing a unique interchange between both communities interested in reductionism

[Oxford Studies in Metaethics 13](#) Russ Shafer-Landau, 2018-07-12 Oxford Studies in Metaethics is the only publication devoted exclusively to original philosophical work in the foundations of ethics It provides an annual selection of much of the best new scholarship being done in the field Its broad purview includes work being done at the intersections of ethical theory with metaphysics epistemology philosophy of language and philosophy of mind The essays included in the series provide an excellent basis for understanding recent developments in the field those who would like to acquaint themselves with the current state of play in metaethics would do well to start here

Explaining Inequalities in School Achievement Roy Nash, 2016-04-15 Inequalities in educational opportunity have been a persistent feature of all school systems for generations with conventional explanations of differences in educational attainment tending to be reduced to either quantitative or non quantitative list theories In this groundbreaking book Roy Nash argues that a realist framework for the sociological explanation of educational group differences can and must be constructed A move to such an explanatory framework will allow us to take into account the social influences of early childhood development the later emergence of social identities and the nature of the social class impact of educational and career decision making By building on the critical analyses of the theories of Bourdieu Boudon and Bernstein this book makes a vital contribution to the current policy and theoretical debate about the causes of educational inequality

The Presence of Mind Daniel D. Hutto, 1999 Will our everyday account of ourselves be vindicated by a new science Or will our self understanding remain untouched by such developments This book argues that beliefs and desires have a legitimate place in the explanation of action Eliminativist arguments mistakenly focus on the vehicles of content not content itself This book asks whether a naturalistic theory of content is possible It is argued that a modest biosemantic theory of intentional but nonconceptual content is the naturalist's best bet A theory of this kind complements connectionism and recent work on embodied and embedded cognition But intentional content is not equivalent to propositional content In order to understand propositional content we must rely on Davidsonian radical interpretation However radical interpretation is shown to be at odds with physicalism But if the best naturalised theory of content we are likely to get from cognitive science is only a theory of intentional content then a naturalistic explanation of scientific theorising is not possible It is concluded that cognitive science alone cannot explain the nature of our minds and that eliminativism is intellectually incoherent Series A

[Oxford Studies in Metaethics, Volume 7](#) Russ Shafer-Landau, 2012-06-28 Oxford Studies in Metaethics is the only publication devoted exclusively to original

philosophical work in the foundations of ethics It provides an annual selection of much of the best new scholarship being done in the field Its broad purview includes work being done at the intersections of ethical theory with metaphysics epistemology philosophy of language and philosophy of mind The essays included in the series provide an excellent basis for understanding recent developments in the field those who would like to acquaint themselves with the current state of play in metaethics would do well to start here **Physicalism and Mental Causation** Sven Walter, Heinz-Dieter

Heckmann, 2015-11-04 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 **Nietzsche and Morality**

Brian Leiter, Neil Sinhababu, 2007-02-15 Nietzsche was surprisingly neglected by most English language moral philosophers until recently This volume capitalizes on a growth of interest in Nietzsche s work on morality from two sides from scholars of the history of philosophy and from contributors to current debates on ethical theory In eleven new essays leading philosophers aim both to advance philosophical understanding of Nietzsche s ethical views his normative and meta ethics his moral psychology his views on free will and the nature of the self and to make Nietzsche a live participant in contemporary debates in ethics and cognate fields **Social Theory of International Politics** Alexander Wendt, 1999-10-07 Drawing

upon philosophy and social theory Social Theory of International Politics develops a theory of the international system as a social construction Alexander Wendt clarifies the central claims of the constructivist approach presenting a structural and idealist worldview which contrasts with the individualism and materialism which underpins much mainstream international relations theory He builds a cultural theory of international politics which takes whether states view each other as enemies rivals or friends as a fundamental determinant Wendt characterises these roles as cultures of anarchy described as Hobbesian Lockean and Kantian respectively These cultures are shared ideas which help shape state interests and capabilities and generate tendencies in the international system The book describes four factors which can drive structural change from one culture to another interdependence common fate homogenization and self restraint and examines the effects of capitalism and democracy in the emergence of a Kantian culture in the West

Reduction Explanation And Realism Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

In an electronic digital era where connections and knowledge reign supreme, the enchanting power of language has are more apparent than ever. Its ability to stir emotions, provoke thought, and instigate transformation is really remarkable. This extraordinary book, aptly titled "**Reduction Explanation And Realism**," published by a very acclaimed author, immerses readers in a captivating exploration of the significance of language and its profound impact on our existence. Throughout this critique, we shall delve into the book is central themes, evaluate its unique writing style, and assess its overall influence on its readership.

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