

705 - LECTURE

AGENCY & RESPONSIBILITY

I. WHY WE CARE

- A. The stories we read.
- B. What are the conditions under which you suspect that someone is not in control of themselves?
- C. What do you do differently if you suspect that? How does your behavior change in response to them?
- D. Are you in control of yourself?

II. INTRODUCTION

A. Two Pictures

1. External (Scientific)
 - a) **PYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES BEGINNING AT CONCEPTION WHEN GENETIC MATERIAL OF MOM & POP COMBINE TO FORM A UNIQUE STRUCTURE.**
 - b) **MY GENES ENCODE SIZE, GROWTH, HAIR & EYE COLOR AS WELL AS CERTAIN PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAITS**
 - c) **THIS MATERIAL IS EXPRESSED DEPENDING UPON THE TYPE AND FREQUENCY OF PHYSICAL NOURISHMENT AND TOUCH, EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT FORMED WITH PRIMARY CARE GIVERS, CHARACTER OF SOCIAL INTERACTION,**
 - d) **THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEURONAL PATHWAYS**
 - e) **BEHAVIOR IS THE OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF CHARACTER — THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPRESSION OF GENETICALLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY PRODUCED NEUROPHYSIOLOGICAL CONSTITUTION.**
 - f) **WE ARE JUST AS PREDICTABLE AS MOLECULES**
2. Internal
 - a) **HOW I ACT IS UP TO ME.**
 - b) **I MAKE MY LIFE.**
 - c) **THERE'S NO BLUEPRINT**
 - d) **IT IS BY AND LARGE UP TO ME; I CONSTRUCT MY LIFE.**
 - e) **YOU FORM PREFERENCES.**
 - f) **YOU CHOOSE YOUR PREFERENCES**
 - g) **AT ALMOST ANY GIVEN CHOICE, MOMENT, DECISION, IT SEEMS IT COULD HAVE GONE THE OTHER WAY.**

**h) I HAVE EVIDENCE THAT THERE IS NO INVASIVE CONTROL OF MY LIFE;
MY ACTIONS FOLLOW MY DECISIONS, MY DECISIONS FOLLOW MY
DELIBERATIONS, AND MY DELIBERATIONS FOLLOW...ME**

i) THERE IS AN INDETERMINISM

B. A Conflict

1. How can I have control, be the designer of my life if I am just a part of the physical system? If I am in control, what do we make of this physicalism that it stands in conflict with. **RECONCILIATION**

A. Standpoints

1. True stories told from different perspectives.
2. Dennett a favorite of metaphysicians who could give a crap about ethics.
3. Problem: Violates the law of noncontradiction
4. Response: Practical v. Theoretical Reason
 - a) **THEORETICAL CLAIMS ARE SILENT ON THE ARENAS COVERED BY PRACTICAL REASON**
 - b) **WHY WOULD THEY BE?**

B. Compatibilism

1. According to causal determinism there is at every moment exactly one physically possible future.
 - a) **HOWEVER, WE FACE A VARIETY OF ALTERNATIVE FUTURES, DON'T WE?**
 - b) **SO IT SEEMS.**
 - c) **IN ACTUALITY, THE ALTERNATIVE FUTURES RUN ON THE ASSUMPTION OF AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PAST. IF IN FACT, THERE WERE A DIFFERENT PAST, THERE COULD BE A DIFFERENT FUTURE, HOWEVER THERE WAS NOT A DIFFERENT PAST.**
2. My freedom requires only that
 - a) **I BE UNCONSTRAINED**
 - b) **I CAN ACT ON MY SECOND ORDER VOLITIONS**
 - c) **I CAN ACT ON MY VALUES**
 - d) **I CAN ACT FROM AN APPRECIATION OF WHAT IS TRUE AND GOOD.**

C. Beyond Control Argument

1. If I cannot control the events preceding me and these events determine me, then I do not control myself.
2. Conclusion: Incompatibilism
3. Here's a problem: Defining freedom as control flies in the face of the alternative interpretations that construe freedom differently.
4. It is called begging the question.
5. Counterfactual power to do otherwise. (not good)

IV. SELF DEFINITION

A. Second order desires

B. Those principles and ends which he in a cool non-self deceptive moment articulates a defensible life.

V. IDETERMINISM

A. Random

VI. ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

A. What is free will for?

1. Dignity, authenticity, creativity, romantic love
2. Responsibility

B. Reactive attitudes and what they tell us

C. Alternative possibilities — A Garden Stroll