

The Problem of Freedom and Determinism

Two Principles

PUC: Every event has a cause.

FWT: Sometimes people act freely.

A Principle about Incompatibility

P and Q are incompatible if there is a valid argument from P and some necessary truths to the denial of Q.

An Argument for Incompatibility

1. Every event has a cause. (PUC)
2. If every event has a cause, then everything we do is completely determined by antecedent conditions.
3. If everything we do is completely determined by antecedent conditions, then nobody ever acts freely.
4. Therefore, nobody ever acts freely. (denial of FWT) 1,2,3 MMP

Another Argument for Incompatibility

1. Sometimes people do things freely. (FWT)
2. If sometimes people do things freely, then not everything we do is completely determined by antecedent conditions.
3. If not everything we do is completely determined by antecedent conditions, then some events are not caused.
4. Therefore, some events are not caused. (denial of PUC) 1,2,3 MMP