



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The Jacques Loeb Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences

A joint seminar with the Department of Physics

On The Necessity Of Laws Of Nature

Marius Cohen, Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

In this talk, I will raise the question of the origin of necessity in the physical world. While we understand perfectly the origin of necessity in logic and mathematics (namely analytical deduction), we simply do not know where necessity in the physical world originates from. Answering the question by referring to laws of nature creates a circular explanation, as we refer to necessity in order to differentiate laws of nature from contingent regularities.

After arguing that this is a legitimate metaphysical question I will suggest that under an assumption to be discussed, physical necessity is merely mathematical necessity, nothing more. So there is no need to explain another kind of necessity, the origin of which is unclear. Physical necessity is the same familiar, well understood, analytical necessity.

January 8th (Wednesday), Building 54, Room 207, 13:30

The Jacques Loeb Centre seminars provide an interdisciplinary forum, in which historians and philosophers of science, as well as scientists, present and discuss new research related to science with a special focus on the life sciences. Case studies and surveys examine the impact of political, socio-economic and personal factors on the conduct of science, the ethics of research, and the causes of progress and setbacks.

Faculty and students from all disciplines are invited!

The Jacques Loeb Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences

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