

EDITORIAL

The first international CauSci event took place at UMB in October. About 50 participants, including speakers, PhD-students and visitors, joined us here at As to discuss causation and complexity in biology over several days.

On a more personal note, I am very pleased to announce that the book, *Getting Causes from Powers*, from which the CauSci project was developed, is finally published at Oxford University Press.

I also want to remind you that CauSci is on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/CauSci>. For philosophy in general I have created two lists of more than 700 academic philosophers, students and staff. The lists can be found on my profile page <http://www.twitter.com/ranilillanjum>.



NEWS

PHILSCI FORUM 9 November
Roger Strand was speaking on
Uncertainty and Complexity
in Clinical Decisions. Strand
works as a professor at Senter
for Vitenskapsteori, University
of Bergen. More details can be
found at
<http://www.umb.no/causci/article/phils-ci-forum>

PHILEC SEMINAR In the
summer we established an
informal discussion seminar
on Philosophy and
Economics at IØR. The first
meeting was in the middle of
the summer holiday but
Stephen Mumford, managed
to engage a full table in a
discussion on causation and
correlation. In the spring a
group of colleagues at IØR
will discuss the possibility of
developing a module in
philosophy of economics.

NEW COLLEAGUES The PhD-
students are now both in
place. Elias Núñez started in
July and Fredrik Andersen
started in September. Both the
visiting Professors on the
CauSci project, John Dupré
and Stephen Mumford, will be
involved in the supervision.





Stephen Mumford and Rani Lill Anjum

Getting Causes from Powers

OXFORD

NEW BOOK The Causation holds the whole universe together and it is relevant to every single subject area. If there were no causes, nothing we did could be of any consequence. But as a species we still have failed fully to grasp what causation is. Does anything else have quite this combination of being so ubiquitous and vital to us yet also so little understood?

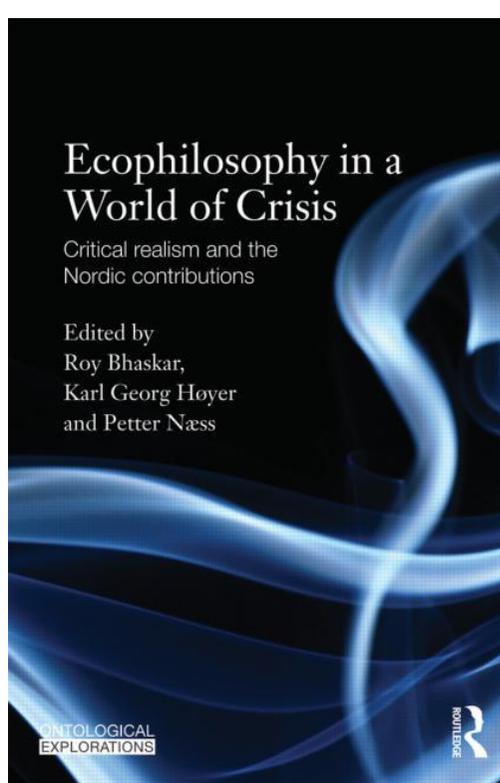
The authors construct a new theory of causation based on real dispositions or powers. It will be a surprise to many of those who already work on causation yet it should strike a newcomer as good common sense. A number of philosophical orthodoxies are challenged. For centuries it has been assumed that correlation is evidence of causation, that the cause always precedes the effect in time, that causes necessitate their effects, and that inductive inference is flawed. The authors show in turn how each of these and other orthodoxies can be challenged.

The commitment to powers is that particular things dispose naturally towards the production of certain kinds of effect in virtue of their properties. Others have already suggested that it should be possible to get a theory of causation from an ontology of dispositions but no one has yet performed the detailed work. In this book it is argued that the completed theory will not look exactly as anyone has yet anticipated in that a thoroughly dispositional theory of causation will have some surprising features. The book is not restricted to the metaphysics of causation, but treats a variety of topics such as explanation, perception, modelling, the logic of causal claims, transitivity, nonlinearity, and the empirical credentials of the theory are tested with reference to biology.

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1. Passing Powers Around
 2. Modelling Causes as Vectors
 3. Against Necessity
 4. Reductionism, Holism and Emergence
 5. Simultaneity
 6. Explanation, Absences and Counterfactuals
 7. The Logic of Causation
 8. Primitive Modality
 9. Perceiving Causes
 10. A Biologically Disposed Theory of Causation
- Conclusion of this book

<https://sites.google.com/site/ranilillanjum/research/getting-causes-from-powers>



1. Introductory Perspectives. By: (Roy Bhaskar), Karl G. Høyer and Petter Næss,
2. Critical realism in resonance with Nordic ecophilosophy: ecophilosophical themes in the development of critical realism By: Roy Bhaskar,
3. Nature, Technology and Environmental Crisis By: Arne Johan Vetlesen,
4. Towards an Ecophilosophy. The Nordic Contributors, By: Karl G. Høyer,
5. A Biosophic Perspective. Humans as a Tragic Species, By: Peter Wessel Zapffe,
6. The Deep Ecological Movement: Some Philosophical Aspects By: Arne Næss,
7. Gaia versus Servoglobe By: Sigmund Kvaløy Setereng,
8. The Myths of Progress, By: Georg Henrik von Wright,
9. The Extension of Time and the Order of Things By: Torsten Hägerstrand,
10. Human Rights and Ecology as Premises for Practical Standpoints By: Jon Wetlesen,
11. From Ecophilosophy to Degrowth, By: Karl G. Høyer and Petter Næss,
12. Ecophilosophy, Precaution, and Theory of Science, By: Karl G. Høyer,
13. Between Critical Realism and Nordic Ecophilosophy, By: Trond Jakobsen,
14. Selected titles, published in English, By: Karl G. Høyer and Petter Næss.

NEW BOOK Building on its origins at a seminar in Oslo organized by two of the editors, this book combines classic texts of Nordic ecophilosophy and the original contributions of those influenced by this tradition to present the view that critical realism is indeed a worthy intellectual tradition to carry forward and further develop the work of the founders of Nordic ecophilosophy.

It was clear at the seminar that there was a promising convergence of interests and themes in the two approaches; while at the same time, within the Nordic ecophilosophical tradition, there was appreciation of the capacity of critical realism, with its provision of a robust philosophical ontology and generation of totalizing immanent critiques of Western philosophy, to provide an expansive and secure home for the development of ecophilosophical work generally.

If there is a single overarching theme of critical realist philosophy, it surely must be that of the unity of theory and practice, which Bhaskar, following Hegel, has also called "seriousness". This makes the applicability, relevance and actionability of critical realism key considerations for critical realists. There can be no doubt that this concern was shared fully by the Nordic ecophilosophers; and this quality of "seriousness" is a striking feature of the Nordic contributions presented in this book.

CAUBIO

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM AT UMB The symposium *Causation and Complexity in Biology and Beyond* was the first of four meetings for the CauSci project. Over three days the participants were discussing topics such as causal complexity, context-sensitivity, emergence, reductionism, metaphors, the causal role of genes and

the need for causal pluralism. In total there were 22 speakers at the meeting. Professors John Dupré and Stephen Mumford gave the keynote lectures and they also stayed for an extra day after the symposium to introduce and lead a discussion seminar for the students who were following the 5 day PhD-course.

Participants included philosophers, biologists and health scientists from the CauSci network, but the event also attracted 30 visitors from a variety of research backgrounds and institutions.

