

The Power to Will

Stephen Mumford and Rani Lill Anjum

The traditional view of freedom is that one is free (has free will, etc.), if and only if one could have acted otherwise. It seems easy, however, to contrive examples where one couldn't have acted otherwise and yet one seems nevertheless free. Instead one should understand free will and agency on the basis of powers. In this paper we argue that one is free insofar as one exercises one's real causal powers, and we will offer the outlines and some details of what such a positive account would look like.