

HUME AND THE PROBLEM OF CAUSATION

Tom L. Beauchamp
Alexander Rosenberg

"This is certainly the best available discussion of Hume on causality. It is much more than that however: it is the best book-length treatment of causality."

Donald Davidson

This work is a philosophical defense and interpretation of David Hume's regularity theory of causation. The authors demonstrate that Hume's views can withstand contemporary criticism and are relevant to current debates on causality; they apply Hume's regularity approach to issues which he never discussed, but about which his theory has substantial implications. These problems include the direction of causation, the logical form of causal statements, causal judgment, and causal explanation.

The authors claim that a single unified account of causation can be constructed from Hume's writings. They argue that even two hundred and fifty years after its initial elaboration the regularity theory remains the most cogent and defensible treatment of the causal relation.

Tom L. Beauchamp is Professor of Philosophy, Georgetown University and Senior Research Scholar at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Washington and is the author of *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*.

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