

Stephen Mumford

"The Power to Will: Getting Freedom from Powers"

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 relatively easy to contrive examples where one couldn't have acted otherwise and yet one seems nevertheless free. How is one free? In this paper we argue that one is free insofar as one exercises one's real causal powers. The traditional explication of freedom should instead be understood in terms of agency on the basis of powers.