



# UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Faculty of Philosophy

## PART II METAPHYSICS – CAUSATION<sup>1</sup>

### Recommended reading

These items from the [Faculty Reading List](#) will be especially relevant:

CARTWRIGHT, N., 1979. 'Causal Laws and Effective Strategies,' *Noûs* 13: 419–37. [jstor.org/stable/2215337](https://www.jstor.org/stable/2215337)

FIELD, H., 'Causation in a Physical World', in M. Loux and D. Zimmerman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Metaphysics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005). Also available online at: <http://philosophy.as.nyu.edu/docs/IO/1158/Cause.pdf>.

GASKING, D., 1955. 'Causation and recipes', *Mind* 64, 479–487. [jstor.org/stable/2251235](https://www.jstor.org/stable/2251235)

MENZIES, P., and H. PRICE. 'Causation as a Secondary Quality.' *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* (1993): 187–203. [jstor.org/stable/687643](https://www.jstor.org/stable/687643)

PEARL, J. 2000. 'Epilogue: The Art and Science of Cause and Effect', in Pearl's *Causality: Models, Reasoning, and Inference* (Cambridge University Press), 401–428.<sup>2</sup> (Rough scan presently accessible here: <http://www.nyu.edu/classes/shrout/SEM06/pearl.pdf>)

PRICE, H., 1991. 'Agency and Probabilistic Causality', *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, 42, 157–176. [jstor.org/stable/688050](https://www.jstor.org/stable/688050)

PRICE, H., and B. WESLAKE, 'The Time-Asymmetry of Causation', in H. Beebe, C. Hitchcock and P. Menzies, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Causation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), pp. 414–43. Preprint online at: <http://philsci-archiv.pitt.edu/4475/>.

RUSSELL, B., 'On the notion of a cause', *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, New Series, 13(1912–1913), 1–26. [jstor.org/stable/4543833](https://www.jstor.org/stable/4543833)

WOODWARD, J., *Making Things Happen* (Oxford University Press, 2003); especially Chapters 1–3.

### Additional useful material

Beebe, H., Hitchcock, C. and Menzies, P., 2009. *The Oxford Handbook of Causation*, especially chapters by Woodward, Lipton, and Price & Weslake.

Hitchcock, C., 'What Russell got right', in Price and Corry, *Causation, Physics, and the Constitution of Reality: Russell's Republic Revisited*, Oxford University Press, 2007. [[PDF of uncorrected proof](#)]

Price, H., 1992. 'The Direction of Causation: Ramsey's Ultimate Contingency', *PSA: Proceedings of the Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association*, II, 253–67. [jstor.org/stable/192840](https://www.jstor.org/stable/192840)

Price, H., 2013. 'Causation, Intervention and Agency—Woodward on Menzies and Price'. To appear in Helen Beebe, Chris Hitchcock, and Huw Price (eds), *Making a Difference*, Oxford University Press, 2014. <http://philsci-archiv.pitt.edu/9930/>

Ramsey, F. P., 'General propositions and causality', in D. H. Mellor, ed., *Foundations*, RKP, 1978. (Rough scan accessible here: [philoscience.unibe.ch/documents/kursarchiv/WS03/ramsey.pdf](http://philoscience.unibe.ch/documents/kursarchiv/WS03/ramsey.pdf))

### Provisional lecture outline

1. The 'anti-realist' tradition: Hume and Russell. Probabilistic causality and 'spurious' correlations. Cartwright's argument for realism: causation needed to account for the difference between effective and ineffective strategies. Causation thus tied to agency – the issue of priority. The problem of the direction of causation. (Reading: Russell 1913; Cartwright 1979; Field 2005.)
2. Causation linked to agency. Gasking (1955), Woodward (2003) on causation and explanation, and the case for an account in terms of 'manipulability'.
3. Menzies & Price (1993) on 'Causation as a secondary quality'. Woodward's objections (2003, ch. 3) to the 'subjectivism' of the Menzies & Price view, and some responses (Price 2013).
4. The direction of causation. What distinguishes causes from effects, and why are the latter (usually?) later in time than the former? Why do we explain the future by appeal to the past, and not vice versa? (Price & Weslake 2010)

<sup>1</sup>This version 03.10.14. The latest draft will always be available here: [prce.hu/w/teaching.html](http://prce.hu/w/teaching.html).

<sup>2</sup>Highly recommended.

