

Causation as Folk Science (The Italian Translation)

Norton, John D. (2003) Causation as Folk Science (The Italian Translation).

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Abstract

I deny that the world is fundamentally causal, deriving the skepticism on non-Humean grounds from our enduring failures to find a contingent, universal principle of causality that holds true of our science. I explain the prevalence and fertility of causal notions in science by arguing that a causal character for many sciences can be recovered, when they are restricted to appropriately hospitable domains. There they conform to a loose collection of causal notions that form a folk science of causation. This recovery of causation exploits the same generative power of reduction relations that allows us to recover gravity as a force from Einstein's general relativity and heat as a conserved fluid, the caloric, from modern thermal physics, when each theory is restricted to appropriate domains. Causes are real in science to the same degree as caloric and gravitational forces.

Commentary on: [Norton, John D. \(2003\) Causation as Folk Science.](#)

EPrint Type: Other

Keywords: italiano, italia, translation

Subjects: [General Issues: Causation](#)

ID Code: 2768

Deposited By: [Risso Ricci, Gio Matteo](#)

Deposited On: 05 June 2006

Commentary/Response Threads

- [Norton, John D.. Causation as Folk Science. \(deposited 05 November 2003\)](#)
 - Norton, John D.. Causation as Folk Science (The Italian Translation). (deposited 05 June 2006) **[Currently Displayed]**