
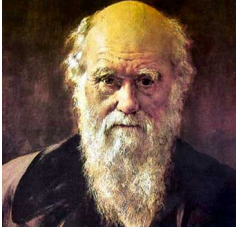


The Threat of Determinism and Futility

1. Ideas in Biology vs. Ideas in Physics
2. The Importance of Moral Education within a Determinist Framework.

Does Biological Investigation in Predicting Behaviors Reveal that We “Programmed” by Our Genes?

Charles Darwin, Evolutionary Theorist

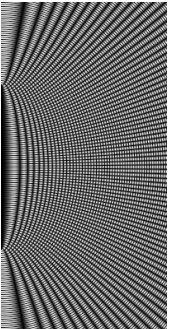
Is Ethics Futile?

1. If we are programmed by our genes, then we have no choices.
2. If we have no choices, then ethics is futile (because we cannot choose to be ethical or unethical).
3. We are programmed by our genes.
4. Therefore, ethics is futile.

Questioning the Biological Framework

Experiments in Quantum Physics Reveal that Even Single Particles Behave in Unpredictable Ways.

So How Can People’s Actions be Determined?




Read Stephen Hawking’s *A Brief History of Time*; See Two-Slit Experiment on [Wikipedia](#)

The wavefronts from two slits and a single photon


Is Ethics Futile?

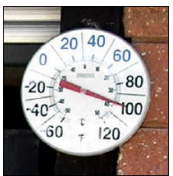
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Thermostat: A Determined System




Input from the Environment





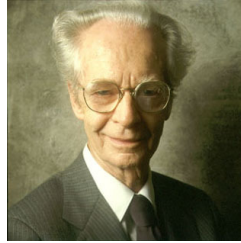
Output from the System



Even if We are Determined, We Still
Change in Response to Our Environments



Moral Education Can Change Us
Whether We Have Free Choice or Not



B.F. Skinner, author of *Utopian Walden Two*

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