

The New Teleological Argument

PHIL 101
Self, World, & God

Religious Evidence

- Natural theology
- Proofs of God's existence
- Circumstantial evidence
- Inference to the best explanation
- Hume's *Dialogues*
- Contemporary developments

Cosmological Argument

E_1 . The physical universe exists.

E_2 . It came into existence 10 to 20 billion years ago.

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T_0 . God exists and created the universe.

Teleological Argument

E_1 . The physical universe exists.

E_2 . It came into existence 10 to 20 billion years ago.

E_3 . The biological world exhibits great structure order and purpose.

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T_0 . God exists and created and designed the universe.

Cosmic Coincidences

- Order and structure in physics and chemistry
- Critical density
 - Closed universe
 - Open universe
 - Euclidean universe
 - Flatness parameter – accurate to 10^{60}
- Homogeneity of the universe
- Density perturbations
- Anthropic principle

New Teleological Argument

- E₁. The physical universe exists.
- E₂. It came into existence 10 to 20 billion years ago.
- E₃. The biological world exhibits great structure order and purpose.
- E₄. The physical universe exhibits an exceedingly "fine-tuned" structure and order. The precise structure and order seems to be a precondition for the evolution of conscious intelligence.

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- T₀. God exists and designed the universe in such a way that intelligent life would eventually evolve.

Secular Naturalism

- Anthropic principle
 - Selection bias
 - Flippant articulation
 - Swinburne's response
- Theories of everything
- Inflationary universe
 - Phase change
 - Magnitude of the expansion
- Contrast with the Darwinian rival

What's the Best Explanation?

- My naturalistic biases
- Still ...
- If I were a theist
- All the relevant evidence?
- Religious pluralism?
- Incommensurability