

# Religious Evidence

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

## Cosmological Argument

**E<sub>1</sub>. The physical universe exists.**

**E<sub>2</sub>. It came into existence 10 to 20 billion years ago.**

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**T<sub>0</sub>. God exists and created the universe.**

## Teleological Argument

**E<sub>1</sub>. The physical universe exists.**

**E<sub>2</sub>. It came into existence 10 to 20 billion years ago.**

**E<sub>3</sub>. The biological world exhibits great structure order and purpose.**

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**T<sub>0</sub>. 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

- E<sub>1</sub>. The physical universe exists.**
- E<sub>2</sub>. It came into existence 10 to 20 billion years ago.**
- E<sub>3</sub>. The biological world exhibits great structure order and purpose.**
- E<sub>4</sub>. 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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- T<sub>0</sub>. 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**