

The free will debate between traditional and recent conceptual approaches regarding decision making

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Abstract:

One of most relevant features regarding free will is how much it can be understood in terms of undetermined decision making, or how far decisional process may be conceived as basically dependent of a free choice that humans assume after reflective forms of cognition able to account for many variables. The discussion thus far has concentrated in three classical positions: libertarianism, compatibilism and determinism, following a spectrum of more to less freedom. Last years the ongoing discussion has incorporated a good deal of scientific approaches, especially from neurological and cognitive studies. Decision making continues to be at the centre of a dense interdisciplinary area of studies trying to discern the extent of this apparent human faculty and, if assumed its positive value, how to get the best of it in order to improve rational management at a personal and social level. As far as things are going, the relevance of these debates for the study of creditions is huge, at the condition that we decide how much the process is automatic and unconscious, or rather reflective and conscious.