

"Facing the Luck Problem for Compatibilists"

It is commonplace to note that libertarians about free will face a compatibility problem of their own. How so? Indeterminism appears to be at odds with freedom rather than a condition for it, since it injects only chance or luck into the etiology of action. This problem, the luck problem, is widely regarded as unique to libertarians. It is assumed that it does not introduce any special difficulties for compatibilists. However, this assumption is false. Compatibilists face the same luck problem that animates libertarians. In this paper, I set out what the luck problem is and why compatibilists face it too. I then show that the most natural resources one might think a compatibilist should use to solve the problem are insufficient. I close with a proposal for compatibilists, but one that yields some surprising and not altogether satisfying results.