

Possibility, Actually: The Possibility-to-Actuality Principle and Accounting for Ineliminable Mentality

(public talk)

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Abstract:

This paper introduces the possibility-to-actuality principle and analyse it by way of three historical examples: Saul Kripke's modal argument, Kripke's Cartesian argument, and David Chalmers' zombie argument and conceivability argument. The possibility-to-actuality principle is then discussed in relation to plenitude, the idea that most kinds of possibilia are actualia. The conjunction of the possibility-to-actuality principle and plenitude is dubbed the plenitudinous possibility-to-actuality principle. It is argued that this latter principle is a helpful guide for determining what actualia ought to be included in an ontology. By way of demonstration, the plenitudinous possibility-to-actuality principle is employed as a premise in an argument for the necessary existence of ineliminable mentality, called the plenitudinous possibility-to-actuality argument. It is thereby shown how the plenitudinous-possibility-to-actuality principle can be a guide for determining what kinds and entities exist. Hence, the objective of this paper is twofold: first, to introduce the possibility-to-actuality principle, and second, to demonstrate how it can be used to account for what entities and kinds exist.