

Generalizing the Lottery Paradox

Timothy Williamson (Oxford)

It is well known that probabilistic criteria for accepting statements can run into trouble with the lottery paradox if they allow a threshold for acceptance less than probability 1. Various attempts have been made to avoid the problem, for example by building exception clauses into the criterion. We argue that no formal criterion of acceptance can avoid the problem. However, reconsideration of the nature of the relevant probabilities may show that probability 1 is not such a demanding criterion as is often assumed. The talk is based on joint work with Igor Douven (Rotterdam).