

John Templeton Foundation Progress Report

Grant ID 12992

Project Leader Nancy Cartwright (LSE) and Eric Watkins (UCSD)

Reporting Period 1 April – 30 June 2012

Project Schedule

1. *Briefly summarize progress you made towards your project's objectives since your last report, including unanticipated results related to your grant. Where applicable, please reference your project timeline, benchmarks, work products, and outcomes/enduring impacts.*

This quarter has seen the project bustle with activity, talks and landmark achievements.

The publication of Dr Eleonora Montuschi's book, Objectivity and Scientific Evidence was celebrated in Venice (See Significant Achievements).

The major event for Year 3 of the project, and the culmination of work accomplished in the project so far, was the meeting at Selsdon Park in Surrey, UK . (See Significant Achievements).

Professor Nancy Cartwright was the recipient of an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas (Appendix 1).

2. *Please explain whether you are on-track for completing your project's objectives. If you are not on track, please describe the challenges you are facing and your plans for getting back on track.*

At the close of Year 3, the project is well placed to complete its objectives in terms of contributions from the research team and major events planned for Year 4.

Significant Accomplishments

3. *Please describe any significant accomplishments since your last report (include attachments): research results, submitted articles, conference proceedings, print/electronic materials, media coverage, funding, etc.*

16 April 2012

A book launch for Dr Montuschi's volume Objectivity and Scientific Evidence (sole author, in Italian) took place at the University of Venice Ca' Foscari on 16

April 2012. Prof Nancy Cartwright was part of the discussion panel, which also included Prof Luigi Perissinotto (Prof of Philosophy of Language and Head of Philosophy Dept., University of Venice) and Prof Silvana Borutti (Prof of Epistemology and Head of Philosophy Dept., University of Pavia). A large and interested audience took part in the event, which was followed by a lively reception. The book is the result of work that Dr Montuschi has done with Nancy Cartwright on pockets of order. In particular it looks at how concern for objectivity enters the field of practice (decisions, actions, choices, practical judgments, policies) not only as a need for a standard of correctness but also as a source of trust.

The Templeton Foundation was formally acknowledged both in the book and in the publicity and invitations to the event (PDF's attached).

17 -29 June 2012

The Selsdon Park Research Team meeting afforded two days of intensive and thought provoking debate on ideas and texts for chapters of the book to be published as a result of the Order Project. Some team members came with their chapters already drafted, which progressed this project beyond what had been originally anticipated. Chapters are:

Co-Director, Eric Watkins, is progressing the volume resulting from the papers presented at the Order Project UCSD conference, 'Historical Perspectives on God's Order, Man's Order and the Order of Nature' held in March 2011.

Dissemination - LSE

Professor Nancy Cartwright continues to examine pockets of order and gave the following talks in this reporting period:

June 2012

University of Dusseldorf, Semantics and Pragmatics of Ceteris Paribus Conditions conference. 'When Causal Laws are Fit for Use'.

Lund University, Sweden: The 2012 Pufendorf Lecture Series 'How to Know What Will Happen When We Act: Using Evidence and the Right Kinds of Causal Knowledge', which was comprised of four lectures on sources of causal order and evidence for in support of it: 'A Theory of Evidence for Use', 'Of What Use are Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs)?', 'The Power of Causal Powers', 'Nomological Machines: Putting Causal Powers to Use'.

<http://www.pufendorf.se/sectione195b.html?id=2864>

May 2012

The Cambridge Moral Sciences Club, Cambridge UK. 'Will this Policy Work for You: A Philosophical Analysis'.

Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX: 'Predicting if this Policy Will Work for You' – as part of the honorary degree ceremonies.

April 2012

Intercept (International Course on Extracorporeal Perfusion Technologies) summer school, Milan: 'Randomised Controlled Trials: Still the Gold Standard for Evidence-based Medicine?.'

Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) annual conference, Berlin: 'What can Economists Know? Rethinking the Foundations of Economic Understanding'

Research Officer, Eric Martin

Eric Martin contributed to the Order Project at both LSE and UCSD during this quarter.

- Consulted with senior scholars, including Chris Southgate and John Brooke, to finish the paper 'Evil and Natural Science'
- Wrote a new paper, in conjunction with UCSD project member Bill Bechtel, called 'Order in Biology' which was presented at the Order Project workshop in Selsdon Park.
- Will review a book for the publication, *Reviews in Science and Religion*. The book is Thomas Nagel's forthcoming Mind and Cosmos: Why the Materialist Neo-Darwinian Conception of Nature Is Almost Certainly False. The book is due to be published in September and the review should appear over the winter.
- Will review the new anthology, Carving Nature at Its Joints: Natural Kinds in Metaphysics and Science (Topics in Contemporary Philosophy) by Richard D. Campbell, which will be included on the Order Project website.
- Continues to participate in and help organize the 'Centre for the History of Evolutionary Studies' (CHES) reading group at UCL, which includes historians, philosophers, and biologists. This should result in a collaborative paper about JBS Haldane, one of the primary architects of the evolutionary synthesis.
- Continues to work with the 'Values and Science' reading group at LSE, which is currently drafting a paper of its findings about the relative place of values and value-free inquiry in scientific practices.

LSE Events

26 April 2012

Professor Tom McLeish, Durham University, gave a talk for the Order Project, 'Why is Science such a Pain?' at the Ian Ramsey Centre for Religion and Science, Oxford (Appendix II). Attendees from the Oxford academic community were made aware of the Project through this event, which was well attended.

8 May 2012

The project hosted a seminar at LSE on powers as a source of order, 'Aristotelian Powers Now', chaired by Robert Northcott (Birkbeck) with presentations by Nancy Cartwright, John Pemberton (LSE) and Anna Marmodoro (Oxford) (Appendix 11I).

The Moral and Social Order series of Lectures (in collaboration with the LSE Choice Group):

14 May 2012

Professor Geoffrey Hodgson (Hertfordshire), 'What are Institutions?' (Appendix IV)

21 May 2012

Professor Garry Runciman (Cambridge), 'The Surprising Coherence of Human Institutions' (Appendix V)

The next two lectures in this series will be given in Oxford in the Autumn of 2012. Anticipated speakers are Sir Antony Kenny and Prof Avishai Margalit.

UCSD Activities

Eric Watkins, Co-Director

Prof Watkins prepared the draft of his chapter for the Selsdon Park team meeting, participated in the discussion group at UCSD and did further editorial work on the OUP volume.

Plans are well under way for the 'Law and Order' conference to be held at UCSD on 2/3 February, 2013.

Research Assistant Activities:

Peter Yong presented the paper 'Kant and the Order of Possibility' at Biola University on 25 April .

Nathan Rockwood organized the 'Law and Order' (History) Reading Group and presented two papers, 'Locke's Moral Theory of Natural Law and 'Locke, Burnet, and the Demonstrability of Moral Knowledge' to the History of Philosophy Round Table. Many of the ideas for these papers came from the reading and discussion in the 'Law and Order' (History) Reading Group earlier this year.

Reading Groups:

The 'Law and Order' Reading Group brought together a group of scholars at UCSD to read and discuss philosophical literature on topics of interest to the project. The emphasis this quarter was on medieval conceptions of natural law. The group read a chapter from the forthcoming Law and Order volume by Marilyn Adams and several chapters from Francisco Suarez's book on natural law. (See the 'Law and Order' Reading Group Bibliography below.)

Law and Order (Contemporary) Reading Group Bibliography

Marilyn Adams, "Powers versus Laws"

Suarez, A Treatise on Laws and God the Law Giver

Rockwood, "Locke, Burnet, and the Demonstrability of Moral Knowledge"

Locke, Essay

— Essays on the Law of Nature

— Reasonableness of Christianity

Burnet, Remarks Upon an Essay Concerning Human Understanding

Cockburn, Defense of Mr. Locke's Essay Concerning Human Understanding

von Leyden, "Introduction," Essays on the Law of Nature

Suarez, A Treatise on Laws and God the Law Giver

Grotius, War and Peace

Irwin, Development of Ethics

Darwall, British Moralists and the Internal 'Ought'

Aaron, John Locke

Uovo, "Catharine Cockburn's Enlightenment"

Colman, John Locke's Moral Philosophy

Database

Eric Martin continues to add new journal articles and monographs.

<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/CPNSS/projects/orderProject/searchTheDatabase/home.aspx>

Additional Reporting Requirements

4. *In this section, please address any additional reporting requirements, i.e. Cost Effectiveness Statement as outlined in your Original Grant Agreement or any amendments to that Agreement.*

The Project continues to progress well within budget overall. Accounts from both UCSD and LSE are attached.

Appendix I

Nancy Cartwright: Honorary Degree Citation

Influential philosopher of science to receive Doctor of Humane Letters in ceremonies May 12

Nancy Cartwright is considered one of the most important and influential contemporary philosophers of science. She earned her Bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Pittsburgh and a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Illinois. After serving on the Stanford University faculty, she was appointed to her present position of professor in the Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method at the London School of Economics. Dr. Cartwright has produced path-breaking work on issues such as the nature of physical laws, causation and scientific reasoning. She is a pioneer of today's practice-based philosophy of science and helped develop the philosophy of social policy, economics, sociology, medicine, epidemiology and political science. Dr. Cartwright is the author of seven books. She has served as president of the American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division), president of the Philosophy of Science Association and a Fellow of the British Academy. She has been elected to the American Philosophical Society, American Academy of Arts and Sciences and German Academy of Science. For her groundbreaking contributions to the understanding of philosophy and science, Southern Methodist University is honored to confer upon Nancy Cartwright the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

<link>

<http://www.smu.edu/News/2012/commencement-citation-cartwright>

Appendix II



Professor Tom McLeish
Department of Physics, Durham University

‘Why is Science Such a Pain?
The Book of Job and an overlooked ancient narrative for
science studies’

Recent analysis of the public reception of problematic technologies (e.g. Macnaghten, J.-P. de Puy *et al.* the DEEPEN project) have unearthed the role that ancient narratives play beneath the surface of ostensibly technical debate around risk and acceptability. These narratives tend to support reactionary or conservative voices (“Pandora’s Box”, “The Sacred” etc.).

Yet there are other ancient narratives that propel the human relationship with nature in quite different directions. Perhaps surprisingly, one of these is found within Old Testament Wisdom literature, and supremely within the poetic jewel of the Book of Job. The “Lord’s Answer” at the close of the book is one of the outstanding cosmological texts from the ancient Middle East, but has accrued a problematic critical reception.

We attempt to look at the text through the unusual lens of the natural history of grappling with order and chaos, situating it within stories both theological and epistemological. What might be the effect of reconnecting today’s public debates (nanotechnology, geo-engineering) to such rich sources?



Aristotelian Powers Now

Tuesday, 8th May 2012
LSE, CPNSS, T206
10.00 a.m. – 1.00 pm

Chair: Robert Northcott, Birkbeck

The recent resurgence of interest in Aristotelianism reflects the relevance of these ideas to contemporary issues in causation, science and ontology. This seminar presents two papers looking at Aristotelian powers. Anna Marmodoro's paper seeks to make sense of Aristotle's account of powers for a modern audience, highlighting what is distinctive and relevant from a contemporary perspective. Nancy Cartwright and John Pemberton's paper argues that to make sense of modern science we must understand it as using powers which have Aristotelian characteristics.

Structural Powers in Aristotle's *Metaphysics* **Anna Marmodoro, Oxford**

Aristotle's ontology aims at explaining what there is and what happens in nature. The elemental items in his ontology are *pure powers* which are instances of different types of *potentiality*. Powers can act on their correlative passive powers and become mutually manifested. But powers do not occur as free-floating instantiations of potentiality in nature. Rather, they are always composed along with other powers into entities. According to Aristotle, powers compose holistically with other powers to constitute entities, the way rain drops compose into pools of water. The compositions of powers may be natural, artificial, or chance compositions. Aristotle explains the composition of powers in his ontology through substance-forms and privation-forms. Such forms, which are a type of structural universal, whether natural, or artificial, or chance ones, explain the emergent *functionality* of the entities constituted by the powers.

Aristotelian Powers: what would modern science do without them? **Nancy Cartwright and John Pemberton, LSE**

Modern science is centrally concerned with arrangements of things, nomological machines, and with the processes of change to which they can give rise: e.g. in chemical reactions, force-based dynamics, and biological processes. The methods used by

science take things to have powers which give rise to change: hydrogen to link with oxygen, masses to attract, hearts to pump blood. What a power does when exercised is in the nature of that power - the changes which occur are coherent processes through time. These characteristics are Aristotelian. Relational accounts of powers seem problematic. Arrangements of things can give rise to new emergent powers.

Appendix IV



Professor Geoffrey Hodgson
Business School, University of Hertfordshire

'What are Institutions?'

14 May 2012

5.30pm

London School of Economics
Connaught House, Aldwych, CON 1.06

The importance of institutions is now widely appreciated in economics, politics, sociology, geography, ecology and other disciplines. Unfortunately there is not yet full agreement on what an institution is. Although there are several different approaches to the understanding of institutions, it is possible to detect some shared themes. It is proposed that institutions are essentially systems of rules. The broadness of this definition is not an impediment if different kinds of institution are distinguished. In turn this definition raises the question of the nature of social rules.



'The Surprising Coherence of Human Institutions'

Professor Garry Runciman
Trinity College, Cambridge

Monday, 21 May 2012
11am – 1pm

London School of Economics
Lakatos Building 2.06, Portugal Street

The long argument between adherents of a Hobbesian and of a Rousseauesque version of the state of nature has by now been laid to rest by archaeological and palaeoanthropological research. But this has not solved the problem of the coherence of the institutions constitutive of large human societies, which continues to puzzle both biologists for whom it is the 'problem of altruism' and sociologists for whom it is the 'problem of order'. Its resolution has been brought closer by behavioural scientists working within the neo-Darwinian theory of heritable variation and competitive selection of information affecting phenotypic behaviour. But they have so far failed to appreciate the full significance of the fundamental distinction between cultural and social evolution. Only then does it begin to be possible to account both for what first happened in Southwest Asia ten to fifteen millennia ago and for why present-day societies do not succumb more often than they do to disintegration or civil war.