

Contents

Introduction 3

Part I. Introductory Essays: Causality, Determinism, and Explanation 11

1. A New Look at Causality 13
2. Determinism and Indeterminism in Modern Science 25
3. Comets, Pollen, and Dreams: Some Reflections on Scientific Explanation 50
4. Scientific Explanation: Causation *and* Unification 68
5. The Importance of Scientific Understanding 79

Part II. Scientific Explanation 93

6. A Third Dogma of Empiricism 95
7. Causal and Theoretical Explanation 108
8. Why Ask, "Why?": An Inquiry Concerning Scientific Explanation 125
9. Deductivism Visited and Revisited 142
10. Explanatory Asymmetry: A Letter to Professor Adolf Grünbaum from His Friend and Colleague 164

11. Van Fraassen on Explanation 178
With Philip Kitcher

Part III. Causality 191

12. An “At-At” Theory of Causal Influence 193
13. Causal Propensities: Statistical Causality versus Aleatory Causality 200
14. Probabilistic Causality 208
15. Intuitions—Good and Not-So-Good 233
16. Causality without Counterfactuals 248
17. Indeterminacy, Indeterminism, and Quantum Mechanics 261

Part IV. Concise Overviews 283

18. Causality: Production and Propagation 285
19. Scientific Explanation: How We Got from There to Here 302
20. Scientific Explanation: Three Basic Conceptions 320

Part V. Applications to Other Disciplines: Archaeology and Anthropology, Astrophysics and Cosmology, and Physics 331

21. Alternative Models of Scientific Explanation 333
With Merrilee H. Salmon
22. Causality in Archaeological Explanation 347
23. Explanation in Archaeology: An Update 356
24. The Formulation of Why-Questions 364
25. Quasars, Causality, and Geometry: A Scientific Controversy That Did Not Occur 369
26. Dreams of a Famous Physicist: An Apology for Philosophy of Science 385

References 405

Index 417