David Chalmers is a philosopher at New York University. Officially he is University Professor of Philosophy and Neural Science and co-director of the Center for Mind, Brain, and Consciousness. He is also Honorary Professor of Philosophy (as of 2018) at the Australian National University and co-director of the PhilPapers Foundation. He is interested in the philosophy of mind (especially consciousness) and the foundations of cognitive science, as well the philosophy of language, metaphysics and epistemology, and many other areas.

Abstract

Rudolf Carnap’s Der logische Aufbau der Welt famously builds a construction of the world starting from an “autopsychological” basis involving structures of phenomenal similarity. In a letter to Moritz Schlick in 1927, Carnap suggested that he might write a second volume of the Aufbau that starts from a physical basis instead. Carnap never carried out this project, however. I will argue that the core materials for Carnap’s second Aufbau (a structuralist analysis of physics and a definition-based reduction of everything else to this structure) can be found in the work of David Lewis, and that this second Carnap-Lewis Aufbau might have avoided many of the objections directed at the first.

The Lewis-Carnap Aufbau

How Carnap and Lewis might have constructed the world again

Tuesday, June 19, 2018
5.00 p.m.
Kapelle
Campus der Universität Wien
1090 Wien