

AGPhil 3: Space, Time and Symmetry II

Time: Tuesday 17:00–18:30

Location: H-HS IV

Invited Talk AGPhil 3.1 Tue 17:00 H-HS IV
Why initial conditions aren't so special — ●MATT FARR — University of Cambridge, UK

The early universe is thought to be extremely low probability in a way that calls for explanation. Some have used the 'initialness defence' to argue that initial (as opposed to final) conditions are intrinsically special in that they don't require further explanation. Such defences commonly assume a primitive directionality of time to distinguish between initial and final conditions. I outline and support a deflationary account of the initialness defence, and argue that although there is no intrinsic difference between initial and final conditions, once we have sufficient structure to discern between them we should not seek

explanations of low-probability initial conditions.

Invited Talk AGPhil 3.2 Tue 17:45 H-HS IV
How to be a Spacetime Functionalist. — ●ELEANOR KNOX — King's College London

Spacetime functionalism has become a popular topic, but the devil is in the details - it is easy to advance a broad functionalist thesis, but if such a position is to have interesting applications it needs to be fleshed out. This talk will articulate one version of spacetime functionalism, inertial frame functionalism, and defend it against some recent objections.