

Teleological Arguments

what is it?

a posteriori arguments
inductive and deductive versions
based around idea that there is evidence of design in the universe
clearly this would require a designer

what in nature?

food webs, planetary routes, complex organisms, brains, carbon/water/krebs cycles and so on...

Does it work?

Objection to legitimacy of analogy - Hume

correlation is analogous, but better analogies are possible (and they have no implication of design)

Objection to conception of designer(s) - Hume

"A great number of men join in building a house or a ship, in rearing a city, in framing a commonwealth; why may not several deities combine in contriving and framing a world?"

There is another source of this coordination of complexity with purpose - C Darwin
Evolutionary Theory.

Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*

argument from analogy
ancient greece - cleanthes

1. The world around us resembles the artefacts of human creation in that they both display complexity.
2. The complexity of human artefacts comes from having been designed and made by intelligent beings (humans).
3. We have no reason to assume that what holds for human artefacts should not hold for the world around us.
4. Therefore, the complexity in the world around us comes from having been designed and made by an intelligent being (God).

Design = Complexity

Keywords
Purpose Design
Analogy

Intelligent Design Movement
burden of proof in light of evolutionary theory

William Paley - Churchman
Watchmaker Argument
Natural Theology, 1802
Design FOR a purpose (*telos*).

1. Some natural objects display design-like properties (they display a precise fitness to purpose).
2. Design-like properties are the result of intelligent design.
3. Therefore, Natural objects are the product of design.

NOT

1. Human artefacts have characteristic Y.
2. Natural objects also have characteristic Y.
3. Human artefacts have characteristic Y because they also have characteristic Z.
4. Therefore, Natural objects also have characteristic Z.

Design = Precise Complexity
+Relation (of this) to purpose.

anthropic argument

FR Tennant - *Philosophical Theology*

'fine-tuning' of the universe to provide conditions that are