

The Conceptual
Engineering Online
Seminar is coorganized by the
Department of
Philosophy at the
University of Zurich and
the Arché Research
Centre at the University
of St Andrews. The
meetings take place
every Tuesday at 35pm BST/4-6pm CEST
from March 29 to June
28, for a total of 14

SESSION #02 | APRIL 5, 2022

SANDRA MITCHELL (PITTSBURGH) | "Are Emergent Phenomena Real?"

A number of philosophers of science have defended the view that causation is the foundation of positing what is real. That is, we infer what phenomena exist from our experience and experiments. The stability of phenomena is what accounts for replicability of results from repeated experiments and convergence of results from different types of experiments. If replication fails or experimental results diverge then the reality of the phenomenon is doubted. These arguments depend on assumptions about the reliability of detection procedures as well as the stability of real phenomena. I will argue that dynamical emergent phenomena, by which I mean system level properties and structures that arise from and are maintained by interactions both among components of the system and with environmental features, present challenges for the standard inference from replication and convergence to realism.

ZOOM DETAILS

Passcode: CEOS22

YOUTUBE CHANNEL www.youtube/c/ConceptualEngineering

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