

Benjamin Libet on Determinism and Non-Determinism

We must recognize that the almost universal experience that we can act with a free, independent choice provides a kind of prima facie evidence that conscious mental processes can causatively control some brain processes” (Libert, 1994)

Non-Determinism, the view that conscious-will may, at times exert effects not in accord with known physical laws, is of course non-proven speculative belief. . . .It may be held that violations of known physical laws are large enough to be detectable, at least in principle. But, it can be argued, detectability in actual practice may be impossible. That difficulty for detection would be especially true if the conscious will is able to exert its influence for minimal actions at relatively few nerve elements; these actions could serve as triggers for amplified nerve cell patterns of activity in the brain. (Libert, 1999)