



University of Cyprus  
Department of Classics  
and Philosophy

## Δημωνάκτειες Διαλέξεις Φιλοσοφίας 2022/23 Demonactian Lectures of Philosophy 2022/23

Το Τμήμα Κλασικών Σπουδών και Φιλοσοφίας σας προσκαλεί στην 1η ομιλία της σειράς των **Δημωνάκτειων Διαλέξεων Φιλοσοφίας** για το ακαδημαϊκό έτος 2022/2023, η οποία θα πραγματοποιηθεί **την Τετάρτη 21 Σεπτεμβρίου, ώρα 18:30, στην αίθουσα 116, κτήριο ΧΩΔ 02 (Πανεπιστημιούπολη),**

με τίτλο:

### **Conceptual Reverse-Engineering, Teleology and Concepts of God**

Ομιλητής:

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#### Abstract:

I argue that *if* there has been a divine creation act, then we can build on such a divine act to conceptually reverse-engineer the possible nature of God by (a) constructing possible models of the nature of God and by (b) comparing them for explanatory power (and other theoretical virtues). That is, I argue that, by analogy with *human* rational action, *divine* rational action must be constrained by certain requirements of practical rationality, such as: intentionality, voluntariness, purposefulness, instrumentality, responsibility, morality and providence. Of course, the analogy is loose and imperfect and should take into account the Anselmian proviso that, unlike feeble humans, God is a perfect being and fully rational, otherwise we will fall prey to crude anthropomorphism. Conceptual reverse-engineering of the nature of God must also be constrained by certain independently motivated metaphysical facts, such as the causal closure of the physical and the apparent necessity of the laws of nature. I then examine how different concepts of God (theism, deism, pantheism) fare with regard to the projected properties of divine rational agency and the metaphysical facts of causal closure and natural necessity. As it turns out, different concepts of God fare better with some aspects and worse with some others. Our task is to compare different models of the nature of God and search for the more explanatorily fruitful and overall more theoretically virtuous theory.