

Analysis of Video By Sabine Hossenfelder ("You Don't Have Free Will But Don't Worry")

Post by "Mathitis Kipouros" of July 30, 2021 at 7:20 AM

One of the links on this thread: [Sabine Hossenfelder - Why the Multiverse Is Religion](#)

Took me to a website where Sabine H. wrote about why free will is inexistent. After the pleasant surprise we had with the other two videos [Cassius](#) I thought it may have been an error but I did find out this video later on:

https://youtu.be/zpU_e3jh_FY

It seems to me that this "paradox" (because, of course, we perceive free will with our senses, but she states we're being fooled) falls a bit into what was talked about in this episode.

I think she's taking the theory of what differential equations, math and physics could describe and confounding it with what we actually experience.

It's a bit disappointing, after the talk we had about her other videos.

I hope [Martin](#) could give an opinion on this.

This part of my reply is less about paradoxes in general and more about the specific apparent "paradox" of free will.

I like Noam Chomsky's very pragmatic response to the question, which can be seen in this video:

<https://youtu.be/J3fhKRJNNTA>

Also, this:

"QUESTION: What about the problem of free will? If genes play a crucial role in structuring the mind's abilities, is free will an illusion?

CHOMSKY: Well, that's interesting. Here, I think, I would tend to agree with Descartes. Free will is simply an obvious aspect of human experience. I know — as much as I know that you're in front of me right now — that I can take my watch and throw it out the window if I feel like it. I also know that I'm not going to do that, because I want the watch. But I could do it if I felt like it. I just know this.

Now, I don't think there's any scientific grasp, any hint of an idea, as to how to explain free will. Suppose somebody argues that free will is an illusion. Okay. This could be the case, but I don't believe that it's the case. It could be. You have to be open-minded about the possibility. But

<http://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/2126-analysis-of-video-by-sabine-hossenfelder-you-don-t-have-free-will-but-don-t-worr/?postID=13019#post13019>

you're going to need a very powerful argument to convince me that something as evident as free will is an illusion. Nobody's offered such an argument or even pretended to offer such an argument.

So where does that leave us? We're faced with an overwhelmingly self-evident phenomenon that could be an illusion even though there's no reason to believe that it is an illusion. And we have a body of scientific knowledge that simply doesn't appear to connect with the problem of free will in any way.

QUESTION: Do you think that science will ever solve the problem of free will?

CHOMSKY: Personally, I don't think so. People have been trying to solve the problem of free will for thousands of years and they've made zero progress. They don't even have bad ideas about how to answer the question. My hunch — and it's no more than a guess — is that the answer to the riddle of free will lies in the domain of potential science that the human mind can never master because of the limitations of its genetic structure."

(From: <https://chomsky.info/198311/>)

There's also this video, still on the topic of free will:

<https://youtu.be/py-PJKzQIw>

By the way, at around 2:15 of it he describes something similar to the canon of truth but not exactly the same.