

Reidar Lie (Bergen), *The challenge of justifying causal claims in medicine*

Causal claims, or claims claiming that if I do x, then y will happen, are central in medicine, and the basis for all therapeutic recommendations. Historically, there are different ways of justifying these claims. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, appeals to mechanisms were common, in the late 20th century, appeals to results from Randomized Controlled Clinical Trials dominated. Recently, there has been a resurgence in mechanisms of disease as the basis for causal claims, or appeals to studies of correlations in massive data sets. This talk will show that we still have difficulties justifying causal claims in medicine.