A note on the analysis of causation in psychological research: The influence of theory.

Dixon, Roger A.

AB Discusses the paper by R. J. Griffore (see record 1979-20017-001) concerning the benefits to psychological research from a full consideration of the Aristotelian tetrad of causality (material, efficient, formal, and final causation). The limitations of the Aristotelian model are noted: (a) It is substantially at variance with the models of causality presently employed in empirical psychology. (b) It may underestimate the influence of theory in causal analysis. (c) It may thus lead to a theoretically insufficient eclecticism. While Griffore's attempt to broaden the explanatory base of psychological inquiry is generally supported, it is premature to settle upon any all-encompassing psychological metatheory.