

# Thomas Jack Lynch Lecture

Department of Philosophy



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### Time Travel and Causal Loops

A causal loop is a sequence of events in which each event causes the next event, and whose last event causes the first. Causal loops arise naturally in many time-travel scenarios and in certain solutions of the theory of general relativity, but many philosophers think that such loops are inherently paradoxical. One reason is that causal loops permit an object to cause its own existence. In such circular creation "ex nihilo", it seems to be an utter mystery why the object in the loop exists. I shall try to show that such worries are in fact misguided, and that causal loops—and the existence of objects within them—admit of all the explanation that one could reasonably ask for. This sheds some interesting light on both causal loops and the nature of explanation.

Thursday October 13, 2011

5:00pm

B316 Tribble Hall

For special assistance please call 336-758-5359 so reasonable accommodations can be made.