

# Cambridge Elements<sup>≡</sup>

Elements in Metaphysics

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## DISPOSITIONS AND POWERS

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## Dispositions and Powers

Elements in Metaphysics

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**Abstract:** As we understand them, dispositions are relatively uncontroversial 'predicatory' properties had by objects disposed in certain ways. By contrast, powers are hypothetical 'ontic' properties posited in order to explain dispositional behaviour. Section 1 outlines this distinction in more detail. Section 2 offers a summary of the issues surrounding analysis of dispositions and various strategies in contemporary literature to address them, including one of our own. Section 3 describes some of the important questions facing the metaphysics of powers, including why they are worth positing and how they might metaphysically explain laws of nature and modality.

**Keywords:** analysis of dispositions, metaphysics of powers, laws of nature, modality, structural equations

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