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Elements in Metaphysics

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MODALITY

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Elements in Metaphysics

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Abstract: Modality is a vast phenomenon. In fact, it is arguably a plurality of phenomena. Within it, one type of modality warrants distinctive interest in philosophy and, in particular, in metaphysics. In view of this, Section 2 of this Element is devoted to modality as a general phenomenon; different types of modalities are distinguished, and the question of unification is raised. Following this, Section 3 is focused on metaphysical modality: the type of modality that is of distinctive interest in metaphysics, and thus for this Elements series. In Section 3, the overarching question is about the source of metaphysical modality, and the discussion here informs, and is informed by, the question of unification discussed in Section 2. This title is also available as open access on Cambridge Core.

Keywords: modality, essence, alethic modalities, epistemic modalities, metaphysical modality, deontic modalities, possible worlds, disposition, de dicto/de re

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