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Elements in Decision Theory and Philosophy

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COMMITMENT AND RESOLUTENESS IN RATIONAL CHOICE

Chrisoula Andreou
University of Utah



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Chrisoula Andreou
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Chrisoula Andreou
University of Utah

Author for correspondence: Chrisoula Andreou, c.andreou@utah.edu

Abstract: Drawing and building on the existing literature, this Element explores the interesting and challenging philosophical terrain where issues regarding cooperation, commitment, and control intersect. Section 1 discusses interpersonal and intrapersonal Prisoner's Dilemma situations and the possibility of a set of unrestrained choices adding up in a way that is problematic relative to the concerns of the choosers involved. Section 2 focuses on the role of precommitment devices in rational choice. Section 3 considers the role of resoluteness in rational choice and action. And Section 4 delves into some related complications concerning the nature of actions and the nature of intentions.

Keywords: commitment, cooperation, rational choice, resoluteness, self-control

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