

Philosopher's Holiday Lecture Series  
Vassar College

*Causal Inference  
and  
Perception in the Treatise  
and  
First Enquiry:  
Hume's Anticipation of Modularity*



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Wednesday  
April 25, 2018  
5:30pm  
Rockefeller Hall 300

Jerry Fodor (American philosopher 1935-2017) has described Hume's psychology as "something like the ultimate in nonmodular theories of mind." This is an appealing picture of Hume's program; perception, memory, and causal inference are special cases of topic-neutral principles of association. Against this, there are precursors of modularity in the *Treatise*, the more so in the first *Enquiry*. These works advance key features of cognitive modules—innateness, rapidity, automaticity, encapsulation, and domain-specificity.



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