

According to axiological idealism, values are ideal and lacking in causal efficiency. On the other hand axiological realism assigns them reality and therefore causal efficiency --e.g. it is said that values influence behavior, and in particular value systems determine social behavior. Both positions are wrong: values are neither entities nor ideas, but properties, hence they can have no causal efficiency. What is real is a valuable thing, or situation. And what can be causally efficient is the act of valuation by some organism. For example, the realization by x (a brain event) that y is valuable will prompt x to seek y, i.e. will guide his behavior.

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