

Two challenges from neuroscience

1 The brain *does* cause behavior

1. Punishment is justified only if those who are punished are the causes of the behavior that is punished.
2. If the brain causes behavior, then the person does not.
3. Neuroscience will show that all behavior is caused by the brain.
4. Therefore, neuroscience will show that punishment is never justified.

2 Beliefs *do not* cause behavior

1. Punishment is justified only if those who are punished are rational.
2. People are rational only if (a) they can have accurate beliefs about the law and their behavior and (b) they are capable of acting on those beliefs.
3. Neuroscience will show that beliefs play no role in causing behavior.
4. Therefore, neuroscience will show that punishment is never justified.