

Formal Cause

1904 [c.] | New Elements (Kaina stoiceia) | EP 2:315-6; NEM 4:252-3

If the cause [...] is a part of the *causatum*, in the sense that the *causatum* could not logically be without the cause, it is called an *internal cause*; otherwise, it is called an *external cause*. If the cause is of the nature of an individual thing or fact, and the other factor requisite to the necessitation of the *causatum* is a general principle, I would call the cause a *minor*, or *individuating*, or perhaps a *physical cause*. If, on the other hand, it is the general principle which is regarded as the cause and the individual fact to which it is applied is taken as the understood factor, I would call the cause *major*, or *defining*, or perhaps a *psychical cause*. [—] The defining internal cause is called the *formal cause*, or *form*.