

Propositions accompanying the thesis:

The Retina as a Biomarker for Vascular and Neurodegenerative Brain Diseases

- 1. Retinal imaging can serve as a source of biomarkers to study small vessel disease and atrophy of the brain. (*this thesis*)**
- 2. Retinal vascular caliber is a potential biomarker for the vascular status of the cerebral white matter. (*this thesis*)**
- 3. Both retinal and cerebral atrophy are reflective of the same disease process, but whether one causes the other should be investigated longitudinally. (*this thesis*)**
- 4. Wider venules in the retina may reflect an insufficient oxygen supply to the brain. (*this thesis*)**
- 5. Causal mediation analysis can provide further insight into the pathophysiology of a disease. (*this thesis*)**
- 6. A statistical interaction is a property of the model that describes the data, not a property of the data themselves.**
- 7. In arguing for the ontological primacy of causation relative to manipulation, the slogan ‘no causation without manipulation’ indicates a lack of imagination.**
- 8. Geography, culture, or ignorance of leaders cannot truly explain world inequality. Extractive political and economic institutions can.**
- 9. With advances in artificial intelligence, creative destruction of white-collar professions will be inevitable.**
- 10. ‘Under normal conditions, the research scientist is not an innovator but a solver of puzzles, and the puzzles upon which he concentrates are just those which he believes can be both stated and solved within the existing scientific tradition’. (*T.S. Kuhn*)**
- 11. ‘The scientific observer of nature is a kind of mystic seeker in the act of prayer’. (*M. Iqbal*)**