

REALISM AND EXPLANATORY PRIORITY

JOHN WRIGHT

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Realism And Explanatory Priority

Eric Funkhouser



Realism And Explanatory Priority:

Realism and Explanatory Priority J. Wright, 1997-04-30 One of the central areas of concern in late twentieth century philosophy is the debate between Realism and anti Realism But the precise nature of the issues that form the focus of the debate remains controversial In Realism and Explanatory Priority a new way of viewing the debate is developed The primary focus is not on the notions of existence truth or reference but rather on independence A notion of independence is developed using concepts derived from the theory of explanation It is argued that this approach enables us to clarify the exact nature of the empirical evidence that would be required to establish Realism in any area The author defends a restricted form of Realism which he calls Nomic Structuralism The book will be suitable for professional philosophers of language science and metaphysics and their graduate students

Realism and Explanatory Priority J. Wright, 2013-06-29 One of the central areas of concern in late twentieth century philosophy is the debate between Realism and anti Realism But the precise nature of the issues that form the focus of the debate remains controversial In Realism and Explanatory Priority a new way of viewing the debate is developed The primary focus is not on the notions of existence truth or reference but rather on independence A notion of independence is developed using concepts derived from the theory of explanation It is argued that this approach enables us to clarify the exact nature of the empirical evidence that would be required to establish Realism in any area The author defends a restricted form of Realism which he calls Nomic Structuralism The book will be suitable for professional philosophers of language science and metaphysics and their graduate students

Is There a Single Right Interpretation? Michael Krausz, 2007-08-09 Is there a single right interpretation for such cultural phenomena as works of literature visual artworks works of music the self and legal and sacred texts In these essays almost all written especially for this volume twenty leading philosophers pursue different answers to this question by examining the nature of interpretation and its objects and ideals The fundamental conflict between positions that universally require the ideal of a single admissible interpretation singularism and those that allow a multiplicity of some admissible interpretations multiplism leads to a host of engrossing questions explored in these essays Does multiplism invite interpretive anarchy Can opposing interpretations be jointly defended Should competition between contending interpretations be understood in terms of bivalent truth or multivalent reasonableness appropriateness aptness or the like Is interpretation itself an essentially contested concept Does interpretive activity seek truth or aim at something else as well Should one focus on interpretive acts rather than interpretations Should admissible interpretations be fixed by locating intentions of a historical or hypothetical creator or neither What bearing does the fact of the historical situatedness of cultural entities have on their identities The contributors are Annette Barnes No 1 Carroll Stephen Davies Susan Feagin Alan Goldman Charles Guignon Chhanda Gupta Garry Hagberg Michael Krausz Peter Lamarque Jerrold Levinson Joseph Margolis Rex Martin Jitendra Mohanty David Novitz Philip Percival Torsten Pettersson Robert Stecker Laurent Stern and Paul Thom

The Oxford Handbook of International Relations

Christian Reus-Smit, Duncan Snidal, 2010-07-01 The Oxford Handbook of International Relations offers the most authoritative and comprehensive overview to date of the field of international relations Arguably the most impressive collection of international relations scholars ever brought together within one volume the Handbook debates the nature of the field itself critically engages with the major theories surveys a wide spectrum of methods addresses the relationship between scholarship and policy making and examines the field's relation with cognate disciplines The Handbook takes as its central themes the interaction between empirical and normative inquiry that permeates all theorizing in the field and the way in which contending approaches have shaped one another In doing so the Handbook provides an authoritative and critical introduction to the subject and establishes a sense of the field as a dynamic realm of argument and inquiry The Oxford Handbook of International Relations will be essential reading for all of those interested in the advanced study of global politics and international affairs

Defending Realism Guido Bonino, Greg Jesson, Javier Cumpa, 2014-12-11 The essays in this volume first presented at an international conference held at the University of Urbino Italy in 2011 explore the different senses of realism arguing both for and against its distinctive theses and considering these senses from a historical point of view The first sense is the metaphysical thesis that whatever exists does so and has the properties it has independently of whether it is the object of a person's thought or perception The second sense of realism is epistemological wherein realism claims that in some cases it is possible to know the world as it exists in and of itself A third sense which has become known as ontological realism states that universals exist as well as individuals The essays collected here make new contributions to these fundamental philosophical issues which have largely defined western analytic philosophy from Plato and Aristotle to the present day

A Companion to Heidegger Hubert L. Dreyfus, Mark A. Wrathall, 2008-04-15 The Blackwell Companion to Heidegger is a complete guide to the work and thought of Martin Heidegger one of the most influential philosophers of the twentieth century Considers the most important elements of Heidegger's intellectual biography including his notorious involvement with National Socialism Provides a systematic and comprehensive exploration of Heidegger's work One of the few books on Heidegger to cover his later work as well as Being and Time Includes key critical responses to Heidegger's philosophy Contributors include many of the leading interpreters of and commentators on the work of Heidegger

Essays in Quasi-realism Simon Blackburn, 1993 This volume collects together the author's pioneering essays on quasi realism a philosophical position he first introduced in 1980 which has become a distinctive and much discussed option in metaphysics and ethics

The Logical Structure of Kinds Eric Funkhouser, 2014-07-03 Eric Funkhouser uncovers a logical structure that is common to many if not all classificatory systems or taxonomies Every conceptual scheme including the sciences mathematics and ethics classifies things into kinds Given their ubiquity across theoretical contexts we would benefit from understanding the nature of such kinds Significantly most conceptual schemes posit kinds that vary in their degree of specificity Species genus taxonomies provide us with familiar examples with the species classification being more specific

than the genus classification This book instead focuses on adjectival kinds classifications picked out by kind terms like mass shape or belief to give but a few examples Some adjectival kinds specify others for example scarlet is a specific kind of red This is an instance of the determinate determinable relation One of the fundamental claims of this book is that studying the determination relation provides deep insight into the essences of adjectival kinds and their instances properties The determination relation is found to contain two components which are employed to structure kinds at the same level of abstraction into property spaces In turn these property space models lead to a theory for individuating properties which has profound consequences when it comes to reduction autonomy and causation Determination relations are contrasted with realization relations the latter being the favored way of understanding how the mental and the physical are related Particular attention is given to the distinction between multiple realizability and multiple determination and it is argued that determination and realization are mutually exclusive relations This has been overlooked in many discussions of multiple realizability but it is central to maintaining the connection between multiple realizability and autonomy The claim that multiple realizability entails various senses of autonomy is defended from various reductionist challenges These theories of determination and realization ultimately provide general standards for establishing the autonomy of the special sciences or conversely their reduction

Priority Nominalism Guido Imaguire, 2018-08-06 This monograph details a new solution to an old problem of metaphysics It presents an improved version of Ostrich Nominalism to solve the Problem of Universals This innovative approach allows one to resolve the different formulations of the Problem which represents an important meta metaphysical achievement In order to accomplish this ambitious task the author appeals to the notion and logic of ontological grounding Instead of defending Quine's original principle of ontological commitment he proposes the principle of grounded ontological commitment This represents an entirely new application of grounding Some metaphysicians regard Ostrich Nominalism as a rejection of the problem rather than a proper solution to it To counter this the author presents solutions for each of the formulations These include the problem of predication the problem of abstract reference and the One Over Many as well as the Many Over One and the Similar but Different variants This book will appeal to anyone interested in contemporary metaphysics It will also serve as an ideal resource to scholars working on the history of philosophy Many will recognize in the solution insights resembling those of traditional philosophers especially of the Middle Ages

Law and Authority under the Guise of the Good Veronica Rodriguez-Blanco, 2014-12-01 The received view on the nature of legal authority contains the idea that a sound account of legitimate authority will explain how a legal authority has a right to command and the addressee a duty to obey The received view fails to explain however how legal authority truly operates upon human beings as rational creatures with specific psychological makeups This book takes a bottom up approach beginning at the microscopic level of agency and practical reason and leading to the justificatory framework of authority The book argues that an understanding of the nature of legal normativity involves an understanding of the nature and structure

of practical reason in the context of the law and advances the idea that legal authority and normativity are intertwined This point can be summarised thus if we are able to understand both how the agent exercises his or her practical reason under legal directives and commands and how the agent engages his or her practical reason by following legal rules grounded on reasons for actions as good making characteristics then we can fully grasp the nature of legal authority and legal normativity Using the philosophies of action enshrined in the works of Elisabeth Anscombe Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas the study explains practical reason as diachronic future directed intention in action and argues that this conception illuminates the structure of practical reason of the legal rules addressees The account is comprehensive and enables us to distinguish authoritative and normative legal rules in just and good legal systems from apparent authoritative and normative legal rules of evil legal systems At the heart of the book is the methodological view of a practical turn to elucidate the nature of legal normativity and authority

Global Politics Ben Whitham, Andrew Heywood, 2023-03-31 In turbulent global times your study of this subject is increasingly necessary and urgent Featuring a new chapter on critical theories and revised to take a less Eurocentric approach to concepts and case studies this new edition allows you to tackle global politics important concepts debates and problems How can theories help us to understand the politics of a global pandemic Do we live in a post truth world of fake news and disinformation Does international aid work Does the United States remain a global hegemon What is the Anthropocene and how does it shape global politics Are global politics constrained by a North South divide What are the possible futures of global politics and the politics of outer space Delving into topics as diverse as anarchy intersectionality Confucianism and neoconservatism boxed features give you confidence in political analysis Focus on learn more about the global colour line or the tragedy of the commons Key figures discuss the ideas of Hans Morgenthau Frantz Fanon or bell hooks Debating argue whether the United Nations are obsolete or whether nuclear weapons promote peace Global politics in action apply your learning to the migration crisis in Europe or the Arab Spring Approaches to consider human rights or the Covid 19 pandemic from the perspective of realist liberal postcolonial Marxist feminist constructivist and post structuralist theory Global actors understand the significance of Black Lives Matter Amnesty International or the International Monetary Fund Spanning the development of global politics from the early origins of globalization through to the return of multipolarity in the twenty first century this is an essential text for undergraduates studying global politics and international relations

Dictionary of Critical Realism Mervyn Hartwig, 2015-01-30 Dictionary of Critical Realism fulfils a vital gap in the literature Critical Realism is often criticised for being too opaque and deploying too much jargon thereby making the concepts inaccessible for a wider audience However as Hartwig puts it Just as the tools of the various skilled trades need to be precision engineered for specific interrelated functions so meta theory requires concepts honed for specific interrelated tasks it is impossible to think creatively at that level without them This Dictionary seeks to redress this problem to throw open the important contribution of Critical Realism to a wider audience for the first time by thoroughly explaining all the key

concepts and key developments It includes 500 entries on these themes and has contributions from major players in field However this text does not stop there it goes further than simply elucidating the concepts and includes a number of essays which use the notions in important areas thereby demonstrating the appropriate use of the concepts in action to encourage their wider use This book will become a requisite reference tool for Critical Realist scholars and Philosophers and Social scientists alike will enjoy this vital introduction and explanatory text of the indispensable ideas contained within the dynamic and vibrant school of Critical Realism

Wondering about the Impossible: On the Semantics of Counterpossibles

Maciej Sendlak, 2024-07-26 This book provides an in depth analysis of the nature and role of hypothetical reasoning about impossibilities The interest in this subject stems from the simple observation that wondering is an inherent aspect of our experience Whether one regrets choosing a taxicab over the subway or contemplates the outcome of an election turning out differently the question What would have happened if is a familiar one While we often focus on possible scenarios we also ponder impossible ones What if whales were fish What if a man could be in two places at once What if one could draw a round square Puzzles concerning such questions sparked a heated discussion over the nature and role of hypothetical reasoning about impossibilities This book goes beyond being an opinionated introduction to this debate After comparing various approaches to this issue it proposes a novel perspective that draws on considerations from epistemology and the philosophy of explanation and dependence Targeting researchers and students interested in the philosophy of modalities this book delivers an in depth analysis of a captivating and often overlooked aspect of human reasoning

The Oxford Handbook of Organization Theory Haridimos Tsoukas, Christian Knudsen, 2005 2 How has organization theory developed over time and what structure has the field taken What assumptions does knowledge produced in organization theory incorporate and what forms do its knowledge claims take as they are put forward for public adoption 3 How have certain well known controversies in organization theory such as for example the structure agency dilemma the study of organizational culture the different modes of explanation the micro macro controversy and the different explanations produced by organizational economists and sociologists been dealt with 4 How and in what ways is knowledge generated in organization theory related to action What features must organization theory knowledge have in order to be actionable and of relevance to the world out there How have ethical concerns been taken into account in organization theory 5 What is the future of organization theory What direction should the field take What must change in the way research is conducted and key theoretical terms are conceptualized so that organization theory enhances its capacity to generate valid and relevant knowledge

Variations in Organization Science Joel A. C. Baum, Bill McKelvey, 1999-05-14 In my judgment this book in honor of Donald T Campbell will be very influential and highly cited It will become a must read for Ph D students and scholars in strategy and organization theory Arie Lewin Duke University The topics in this volume are cutting edge and the contributors are first rate The book is well anchored Donald T Campbell has had a profound influence on the field Moreover the book is well

conceptualized socio cultural evolution co evolution methods modeling and epistemology are key issues in organization science right now Michael Tushman Harvard University If he were an assistant professor today what would social science giant Donald T Campbell be pursuing in the field of organization science Joel A C Baum and Bill McKelvey explore this question in Variations in Organization Science This volume reveals and celebrates Campbell s many contributions to organization science by presenting new variations that stem directly from his work Rather than analyze Campbell s theories the authors present ideas that Campbell might have pursued if he were currently a doctoral student This volume is unique in its focus on coevolution and multilevel coevolutionary analysis as well as in its range of subject matter from empirical studies to leading edge epistemological discourses Each of the book s four main sections focuses on a major aspect of Campbell s legacy blind variation selection and retention multilevel coevolution process level analysis and modeling and epistemology and methodology In addition the volume includes a Foreward by Barbara Frankel Campbell and an unusual Appendix Donald Campbell s complete curriculum vitae Variations in Organization Science should be on the top of the reading list for any organization scientist interested in organizational evolution change and competitiveness This volume will also appeal to any scholar interested in the human and social capital base of firms and how organizational knowledge and learning work to provide the basis of competitive advantage

The Oxford Handbook of Metaphor in Organization Studies ,2024-02-14 Metaphors for organization and management have been a subject of strong interest in the area of organizational studies since the 1980s Metaphors enhance the understanding of organizations and provide a mechanism for critiquing current practices increasing effectiveness and improving communication The Oxford Handbook of Metaphor in Organization Studies provides a comprehensive reference for researchers educators and managers The book comprises twenty nine chapters which are authored by over forty contributors many of whom have played major roles in the development of the field over the years The theoretical underpinnings of organizational metaphors are explored An array of metaphorical contexts for understanding management and organizations is presented The various uses of metaphor as a tool in research education and management are addressed as are the limitations of metaphors Finally future research directions related to metaphors in organizational studies and management are proposed

Reports on Philosophy ,1998 **The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Colour** Derek H. Brown,Fiona Macpherson,2020-09-27 From David Hume s famous puzzle about the missing shade of blue to current research into the science of colour the topic of colour is an incredibly fertile region of study and debate cutting across philosophy of mind epistemology metaphysics and aesthetics as well as psychology Debates about the nature of our experience of colour and the nature of colour itself are central to contemporary discussion and argument in philosophy of mind and psychology and philosophy of perception This outstanding Handbook contains 29 specially commissioned contributions by leading philosophers and examines the most important aspects of philosophy of colour It is organized into six parts The Importance of Colour to Philosophy The Science and Spaces of Colour Colour Phenomena Colour

Ontology Colour Experience and Epistemology Language Categories and Thought The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Colour is essential reading for students and researchers in philosophy of mind and psychology epistemology metaphysics and aesthetics as well as for those interested in conceptual issues in the psychology of colour **Levels of Explanation** Katie Robertson, Alastair Wilson, 2024-12-09 This is an open access title available under the terms of a CC BY NC ND 4.0 International licence It is free to read at Oxford Scholarship Online and offered as a free PDF download from OUP and selected open access locations The different sciences furnish us with a wide variety of explanations some work at macroscopic scales some work at microscopic scales and some operate across different levels How do these different explanatory levels relate to one another and what is an explanatory level in the first place Over the last 50 years more and more philosophers both reductionists and anti reductionists no longer subscribe to the idea that the best explanation resides at the fundamental physical level New challenges arise from the success of scientific explanations employing multi level models which mix levels of explanation from distinctive differences between levels structures in biology cognitive science and social science from the apparently radical reimagining of the explanatory role of spacetime in our current best theories of fundamental physics and from the enduring mystery of how higher level explanations are possible in the first place These questions naturally connect to classic philosophical ways of thinking about the relationships between levels reduction emergence and fundamentality This volume presents a snapshot of cutting edge research on explanatory levels from their conceptual foundations to the details of how they are used in scientific practice **Oxford Studies in Metaethics** Russ Shafer-Landau, 2007-04-19 This is a periodical publication devoted to original philosophical work on the foundations of ethics and includes study being carried out at the intersections of ethical theory with metaphysics epistemology philosophy of language and philosophy of mind

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Realism And Explanatory Priority Introduction

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