

Logical Positivism: Metaphysics is Meaningless



A. J. Ayer
(1910-89)

- Statements are meaningful only if they are analytic (tautologies, true/false by definition) or empirical (based on experience)
 - **Objection: this principle is neither, so it is meaningless**
- Because metaphysical, aesthetic, theological and ethical statements are neither tautologies nor statements of fact, they are meaningless (or express only a feeling or emotion, not some truth)
 - **Objection: we really don't believe this**

Metaphysics Of Logical Positivism

Bowman L. Clarke



Metaphysics Of Logical Positivism:

The Metaphysics of Logical Positivism Gustav Bergmann, 1967 Metaphysics of Logical Positivism Gustav Bergmann, 1959 **Logical Positivism** A.J. Ayer, 1966 Edited by a leading exponent of the school this book offers in the words of the movement's founders logical positivism's revolutionary theories on meaning and metaphysics the nature of logic and mathematics the foundations of knowledge the content of psychological propositions ethics sociology and the nature of philosophy itself *The Metaphysics of Logical Positivism* Gustav Bergmann (filosoof, wiskundige), 1967 *Metaphysics of logical positivism. Meaning and existence* Gustav Bergmann, 2003 An Examination of Logical Positivism Julius Rudolph Weinberg, 2000 First Published in 2000 Routledge is an imprint of Taylor Francis an informa company **The Legacy of Logical Positivism** Peter Achinstein, Stephen Francis Barker, 1969 **Logical Positivism: A Note on the Philosophical School** Pons Malleus, 2025-07-14 This book is an exploration of one of the most influential and in many respects controversial philosophical movements of the 20th century logical positivism Emerging in the intellectually vibrant but politically fractured climate of interwar Europe logical positivism sought to establish a new foundation for philosophy one rooted in logic empirical science and linguistic clarity It was a radical call to arms against metaphysics mysticism and what its proponents saw as the obscurities and excesses of traditional philosophical discourse The core idea of logical positivism also known as logical empiricism was deceptively simple only statements verifiable through empirical observation or logical proof are cognitively meaningful All other statements particularly those about metaphysical entities or ethical absolutes were to be dismissed as meaningless not necessarily false but lacking the kind of sense that makes a claim genuinely discussable This idea often referred to as the verification principle formed the centerpiece of the movement and would shape debates in philosophy of language science and epistemology for decades Logical positivism was not a monolith however Its development involved a diverse group of thinkers chief among them members of the Vienna Circle such as Moritz Schlick Rudolf Carnap Otto Neurath and later A J Ayer in the Anglo American world each with distinct contributions and evolving positions What united them was a shared commitment to clarity precision and the belief that philosophy should be continuous with the sciences not isolated from them In this sense logical positivism represented both a philosophical and cultural project the attempt to bring reason logic and scientific method into a world increasingly dominated by ideology superstition and social upheaval Yet the story of logical positivism is not one of unbroken success By the mid 20th century the movement came under sustained criticism The verification principle itself was shown to be problematic neither verifiable nor analytic and the ambition to eliminate all metaphysics came to be seen by many as overly reductive Still even as the movement waned its legacy endured The analytical rigor it demanded became standard in many philosophical circles and its influence is unmistakable in contemporary philosophy of science logic and language This book is not an uncritical celebration of logical positivism nor is it a wholesale rejection Rather it seeks to trace the history articulate the arguments and evaluate the impact

of this philosophical school with fairness and clarity Through a careful examination of its principles developments internal tensions and critiques we aim to understand both the appeal and the limitations of the logical positivist vision In an age once again marked by uncertainty disinformation and epistemological confusion revisiting the aspirations and challenges of logical positivism is not merely a historical exercise It is a philosophical imperative Let us begin

Logical Positivism Alfred Jules Ayer,1959 General Theory of Knowledge Moritz Schlick,1985 First published in Germany in 1918 this acutely reasoned treatise attacks many of philosophy's contemporary sacred cows including the concept of metaphysics and Kant's arguments for synthetic a priori knowledge The book expounds most of the doctrines that would later be identified with the classical period of the Vienna Circle Unlike many of his peers Schlick displays a detailed and sensitive knowledge of the traditions he criticizes displayed here in the chief work of this pioneering Viennese philosopher *The Unity of Science (Routledge Revivals)* Rudolf Carnap,2013-05-13 As a leading member of the Vienna Circle Rudolph Carnap's aim was to bring about a unified science by applying a method of logical analysis to the empirical data of all the sciences This work first published in English in 1934 endeavors to work out a way in which the observation statements required for verification are not private to the observer The work shows the strong influence of Wittgenstein Russell and Frege *Inside the Great Mirror* James K. Feibleman,2013-11-21 **Philosophy of Nature** Moritz Schlick,1949 **Language and natural theology** Bowman L. Clarke,2018-12-03 No detailed description available for Language and natural theology Ontology and Analysis Laird Addis,Greg Jesson,Erwin Tegtmeier,2013-05-02 Gustav Bergmann 1906 1987 was arguably the greatest ontologist of the twentieth century in pursuing the fundamental questions of first philosophy as deeply as any philosopher of any time In 2006 and 2007 international conferences devoted solely to Bergmann's work were held at the University of Iowa in the USA Universit de Provence in France and Universit degli Studi Roma Tre in Italy The papers in this volume were presented at the first of these conferences in Iowa City where Bergmann taught for nearly four decades after escaping from Europe following the dissolution of the Vienna Circle of which he had been the youngest member There are nine philosophical papers reminiscences of three of his students and a complete bibliography of his published writings *Philosophy and Logical Syntax* Rudolf Carnap,1935 My endeavour in these pages is to explain the main features of the method of philosophizing which we the Vienna Circle use and by using try to develop further It is the method of the logical analysis of science or more precisely of the syntactical analysis of scientific language The purpose of the book as of the lectures is to give a first impression of our method and of the direction of our questions and investigations to those who are not yet acquainted with them From the Preface **Indigenous Shona Philosophy** Pascah Mungwini,2017-12-29 Some of the most provocative questions confronting philosophers in Africa are grounded in the historical memory of conquest and the peripheralisation the continent Mungwini offers a critical reconstruction of indigenous Shona philosophy as an aspect of the African intellectual heritage held hostage by colonial modernity In this comprehensive work he lays bare the thoughts of the Shona who are

credited with the founding of the ancient Great Zimbabwe civilisation Retracing the epistemic thread in the fabric of Shona culture and philosophy he explores the assumptions that inform their thinking The exchange of such knowledge is fundamental to the future of humanity Constructivism and the Metaphysics of Qualitative Research John

Paley,2024-09-30 This book challenges the widespread assumption that a necessary preliminary to qualitative research is the formulation of ontological and epistemological beliefs It argues that the metaphysical claims which supposedly underpin different approaches to social research do not make sense Literally Sentences such as There is a single objective reality and There are multiple constructed realities fail to make information providing statements They do not refer or describe Despite appearances they say nothing about reality or realities at a fundamental level so they cannot be used to justify ground or align with methodological decisions The necessary preliminary turns out not to be necessary at all and we can dispense with not just paradigms but metaphysical underpinnings in general whether structured as paradigms or not Drawing on Wittgenstein s later philosophy Carnap s metametaphysics and contemporary linguistics the book suggests that the metaphysical claims of qualitative texts can be reinterpreted as performative Ontological and epistemological beliefs are resolutions and proposals recommendations for the use of language They form part of a creed by means of which researchers enact the joining of an academic community Written in Paley s trademark clear accessible and conversational style the book points to a revolution in our understanding of the relation between metaphysics and social research It will be essential reading for anyone interested in qualitative research and its philosophical foundations **Meaning and Method** Anders

Nygren,2009-05-18 A distinguished Scandinavian scholar has undertaken a fresh study of themes he examined in earlier writings Meaning and Method contains the results of Nygren s lifetime of thought addressed to the most fundamental concerns of philosophy and theology In this book Anders Nygren delves into these and other questions What is the meaning of meaning What are we to do when one person declares meaningless what another finds supremely meaningful Is there any way of knowing which is right Can we arrive at a common understanding of what is meaningful The author contends that contemporary philosophy does point to such a common understanding Philosophy as put forth by Nygren involves a recognition of diverse contexts of meaning Through philosophy we can also develop a method by which the validity of these contexts may be scientifically tested Nygren shows that the debate about the meaningfulness of religious language is not insoluble He further establishes the scientific status of the two disciplines concerned with religious language theology and the philosophy of religion The author s approach calls for drastic revision in these disciplines and he indicates many new directions for future work in them Students and specialists will be fascinated by Nygren s own account of the philosophical ideas undergirding his theological work This book also makes a major contribution to today s questions in both philosophy and theology Logical positivism and metaphysics Syed Ataur Rahim,1987

Unveiling the Energy of Verbal Artistry: An Emotional Sojourn through **Metaphysics Of Logical Positivism**

In some sort of inundated with monitors and the cacophony of instantaneous communication, the profound power and mental resonance of verbal beauty usually fade into obscurity, eclipsed by the continuous onslaught of sound and distractions. Yet, located within the musical pages of **Metaphysics Of Logical Positivism**, a captivating function of literary elegance that impulses with organic emotions, lies an memorable journey waiting to be embarked upon. Published with a virtuoso wordsmith, that interesting opus manuals viewers on a mental odyssey, gently exposing the latent possible and profound influence embedded within the delicate internet of language. Within the heart-wrenching expanse of this evocative evaluation, we shall embark upon an introspective exploration of the book is main themes, dissect their charming writing type, and immerse ourselves in the indelible impact it leaves upon the depths of readers souls.

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