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Carnap, Revisionism and "Truth and Confirmation"

Oliveira, J.C.P. (2002) Carnap, Revisionism and "Truth and Confirmation". [Preprint]



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Abstract

In recent years, a revisionist process focused on logical positivism can be observed. One aspect of this revisionism -defended by authors like Michael Friedman, John Earman and George Reisch - is the thesis that Carnaps later thought is compatible with that of Kuhn and even that Carnap anticipates some relevant points of Kuhns theory of science. In this paper I discuss one of Carnaps texts most frequently cited by revisionists in favor of their thesis - "Truth and Confirmation" - trying to put it in the context of Carnaps work. My intention is to analyze revisionist interpretation on the basis of other texts by Carnap and show that revisionists, while assembling their jigsaw puzzle concerning Carnaps work, have inadvertently forgotten to consider some pieces of importance in the formation of a theoretically and historically cogent picture.

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