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Carnap, Kuhn and Revisionism: On the Publication of "Structure" in "Encyclopedia" (4th. version)

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Abstract

In recent years, a revisionist process focused on logical positivism can be observed, particularly on Carnaps work. One aspect of this revisionism is the thesis that Carnaps later writings are compatible with Kuhn and even that Carnap anticipates some relevant points of Kuhns theory of science. In this paper I argue against the revisionists interpretation of the fact that Kuhns *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* having been published in the *Encyclopedia of Unified Science*, co-edited by Carnap, is evidence of the compatibility between Carnaps and Kuhns respective philosophies of science. I claim that from Carnaps point of view the book by Kuhn is not in philosophy of science, but rather in history of science, and so there is no justification for the revisionist idea that Carnap would have found 'Structure' philosophically congenial. I support my criticism on the fact that Carnap never refers to Kuhn in his work and that Hempel - who was at a different time a friend and collaborator of Carnap and of Kuhn - never refers to the supposed philosophical affinity between the two authors.

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