

Conventional and Objective Invariance: Debs and Redhead on Symmetry

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Abstract

This review is a critical discussion of three main claims in Debs and Redhead's thought-provoking book Objectivity, Invariance, and Convention. These claims are: (i) Social acts impinge upon formal aspects of scientific representation; (ii) symmetries introduce the need for conventional choice; (iii) perspectival symmetry is a necessary and sufficient condition for objectivity, while symmetry simpliciter fails to be necessary.

Keywords: Objectivity, invariance, conventions, symmetry

General Issues: Structure of Theories

Subjects: Specific Sciences: Physics: Symmetries/Invariances

Specific Sciences: Physics

General Issues: Conventionalism

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