

Reflections on a Revolution at Stanford

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Abstract

We inquire into the question whether the Aristotelean or classical *ideal* of science has been realised by the Model Revolution, initiated at Stanford University during the 1950ies and spread all around the world of philosophy of science --- *salute* P.\ Suppes. The guiding principle of the Model Revolution is: *a scientific theory is a set of structures in the domain of discourse of axiomatic set-theory*, characterised by a set-theoretical predicate. We expound some critical reflections on the Model Revolution; the conclusions will be that the philosophical problem of what a *scientific theory* is has *not* been solved yet --- *pace* P.\ Suppes. While reflecting critically on the Model Revolution, we also explore a proposal of how to complete the Revolution and briefly address the intertwined subject of *scientific representation*, which has come to occupy center stage in philosophy of science over the past decade.

Keywords: theory, model, classical ideal, structure, being, representation

Subjects: [General Issues: Structure of Theories](#)

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Additional Information: Final version of a paper earlier put on this Archive but removed later. Several small changes have been effected.