

Epistemological Pluralism

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Abstract

A number of those actively involved in the physical sciences anticipate the creation of a unified approach to all human knowledge based on reductionism in physics and Platonism in mathematics. We argue that it is implausible that this goal will ever be achieved, and argue instead for a pluralistic approach to human understanding, in which mathematically expressed laws of nature are merely one way among several of describing a world that is too complex for our minds to be able to grasp in its entirety.

Keywords: pluralism, epistemology, reductionism, Platonism

Subjects: [Specific Sciences: Mathematics](#)
[General Issues: Reductionism/Holism](#)
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Additional Information: This is a substantially rewritten and expanded version of a paper called "Scientific Understanding"

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