

# There Is No Special Problem About Scientific Representation

Callender, Craig and Cohen, Jonathan (2005) There Is No Special Problem About Scientific Representation.

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## Abstract

In recent years, philosophers of science have devoted considerable attention to questions about scientific models, and particularly to the issue of how models can represent the world. We propose that scientific representation is best understood as a special case of a more general notion of representation, and that the relatively well worked-out and plausible philosophical theories of the latter are directly applicable to the scientific special case. Construing scientific representation in this way makes the so-called "problem of scientific representation" look much less interesting than it has seemed to many, and also suggests that some of the (hotly contested) debates in the literature are concerned with non-issues.

**Keywords:** representation; models; idealization; realism

[General Issues: Structure of Theories](#)

**Subjects:** [General Issues: Models and Idealization](#)

[General Issues: Realism/Anti-realism](#)

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## Commentary/Response Threads

- Callender, Craig and Cohen, Jonathan. There Is No Special Problem About Scientific Representation. (deposited 26 January 2005) [**Currently Displayed**]
  - [Contessa, Gabriele. Disentangling Scientific Representation. \(deposited 13 September 2005\)](#)