

Scientific Understanding

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Abstract

Many of those actively involved in the physical sciences adopt a reductionist point of view, in which all aspects of the world are ultimately controlled by physical laws that are expressed in terms of mathematical equations. In this article we adopt 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 vast and complex for our minds to be able to grasp in its entirety.

Keywords: reductionism, Kant, Platonism, pluralism, epistemology

General Issues: Models and Idealization

General Issues: Laws of Nature
Specific Sciences: Mathematics

Subjects: Specific Sciences: Matnematics

General Issues: Reductionism/Holism

General Issues: Explanation Specific Sciences: Physics

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