

Ontic Structural REalism and Economics

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Abstract

Ontic structural realism (OSR) as defended in the philosophy of science literature to date is crucially motivated by premises citing empirical discoveries of fundamental physics. To this extent its potential to furnish a general metaphysics for science will appear limited. However, this paper argues that OSR also provides a good account of the progress that has been achieved over the decades in a highly formalized special science, economics. Furthermore, it is claimed, this has a basis in the ontology presupposed by economic theory, and is not just an artifact of the fact that economic theory is formalized.

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