

EDITORIAL: QUANTUM, MIMESIS AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

We are fortunate to present in this issue a number of high quality papers on diverse foundational issues of science.

A paper by Christopher Norris, titled 'Quantum Nonlocality and the Challenge to Scientific Realism', examines various aspects of the near-century long debate concerning the conceptual foundations of quantum mechanics and the problems it has posed for physicists and philosophers from Einstein to the present. The paper concentrates on the issue of realism and the question whether quantum theory is compatible with any kind of realist or causal- explanatory account which goes beyond the empirical- predictive data.

The second paper is by Peter Kosso and is titled: 'Quantum Mechanics and Realism'. In contrast to the foregoing paper, Peter Kosso analyses quantum mechanical data and put forwards an interesting argument that shows that they support epistemological realism.

The third paper, 'Mimesis and the Representation of Reality: A Historical World View', is by Ernest Mathijs and Bert Mosselmans. The authors consider the representation of reality to be a fundamental concept in the perception of the world. Inspired by René Girard's hypotheses on the origin of culture, they investigate the anthropometric stage of cultural development as a historical world view. They concentrate on the function of art as the representation of cultural values and investigate the three major motives of artistic representation, i.e. beauty, dramatization and mimesis. They investigate how and why these motives play an essential role in the obfuscation and explanation of the origin of culture.

The fourth paper by Luk Van Langenhove, titled 'Rethinking the Social Sciences? A Point of View', analysis the present 'state of



the art' of critical thinking about the social sciences. Van Langenhove also reviews some recent proposals to re-structure the social sciences.

Although the four papers presented in this issue treat very diverse subjects (except the first two papers), they all investigate foundational issues of important parts of our surrounding reality and our human practice. I hope that the reader will perhaps find some new answers to old questions, but most of all I hope that he or she will be stimulated to reflect further on the issues that the papers published here put forward.

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