

VlaPoLo7 abstract of

THEORY CONSTRUCTION AND ADAPTIVE LOGIC

by

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After some introductory remarks on the concept of theory and on the function of theories, we propose to divide the construction process of theories in three steps:

- (1) the choice of a research tradition within which to work.
- (2) the choice of a specific set of constraints (within the limits of the research tradition) which guide theory construction
- (3) finding auxiliary hypotheses which, together with the constraints, constitute a complete theory.

Our aim in the long run (not in this paper) is to develop logics for analysing these three stages. In the second half of this paper, we present the adaptive logic $ALTC_3$ which, as one can derive from the subscript, is meant as a tool for analysing the third stage.