

Special Issue

The Problem of Induction throughout the Philosophy of Science

Message from the Guest Editor

Any inference from current observations to observations not yet made is widely conceded to invite a Problem of Induction. Some view this as a problem of justification: how can we justify such ampliative inferences? This invites a focus on the relation of justification between theory and evidence and a presumption that a logic of discovery is either impossible or irrelevant. Others have framed the Problem of Induction in terms of the failure to obtain truth: going beyond our observations entails the risk of error, and the problem is to ascertain whether this risk can be eliminated, mitigated, or circumscribed. This invites a focus on method that has reopened the door to a logic of discovery and given rise to new domains of scientific practice. How have these divergent interpretations of the Problem of Induction shaped the recent philosophy of science? What should a philosophy of the new sciences of inductive learning look like? This Special Issue aims to bring to the fore the ways in which the Problem of Induction continues to drive the philosophy of science, and to evaluate the impact of proposed solutions to the problem of induction on both science and its philosophy.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Philosophies searches for the syntheses of philosophical and scientific inquiries. It promotes philosophical work that is derived from the experience of diverse scientific disciplines and cultures. Multiple philosophies already exist—those of logic, information, computation, natural and artificial life, natural or artificial intelligence, complexity, technology, etc. Our mission is not to abandon philosophical roots and traditions of inquiry, but to promote the development of philosophical foundations and effective methodologies derived from diverse scientific explorations, and intended to enhance these explorations as to generate deeper and more holistic knowledge. Innovation may also be achieved through the cultural dimension. Other cultures can offer from their heritage a diversity of resources for exploration; these resources can also contribute to the emergent synthesis of philosophical inquiry.

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