

Special Issue

Meta-Philosophy of Science

Message from the Guest Editor

How should we conceive of science as an historical entity over time? Is it a cumulative, progressive process, as various forms of scientific realism might suggest? Does it display cyclic developmental patterns with radical discontinuities, as Kuhn famously argued? Is it just one thing after another subject to historical contingency and perhaps methodological anarchy, as Feyerabend appears to have advocated? What categories are proper and adequate to describe its development? Or is the very idea of theoretical history of science misguided to begin with? Is theory change continuous or discontinuous, or does it depend on the level of resolution? Are there micro-patterns and macro-patterns? Should particular phases in the history of science traditionally regarded as paradigmatic or revolutionary be reevaluated and reclassified? Can resources from evolutionary biology be tapped to explain scientific development or change?

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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