

A Realist Philosophy of Science 1984



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(Dr. Raven Ledner)

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Palgrave MacMillan, United Kingdom, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 1st ed. 1984.. 216 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This book is about the nature of scientific theory. The central topic of inquiry concerns how it is that theories are able to supply us with powerful and elegant explanations of puzzling phenomena that often confront the scientist and layman alike. It is argued that an answer to this question supplies us with an account of how theories achieve a variety of tasks such as the prediction and organization of data, including how they support a very important class of claims known in the literature as counterfactual conditionals. The book begins by presenting a critical survey of past, classic formulations of the nature of scientific theory which are prominent in philosophy of sciences circles today. These include the doctrines of logical positivism, Hempel's Deductive-Nomological model of explanation, Hanson's gestalt approach to understanding and observation, Kuhn's sociology of science, and others. After presenting the reader with a critical examination of the above approaches to the nature of scientific theory, the author then presents his own views. His approach is essentially an ontological one. Ontology is usually characterized as the study of the nature of the most fundamental constituents of the universe. The major contention of the book is that theories are essentially depictions of the nature of things, and that it is this feature which accounts for their ability to explain, predict and organize a vast array of data. In the tradition of more recent versions of scientific realism that have occurred in the literature, the author attempts to show that the very confirmation of a theory depends on its ability to refer to the fundamental constituents of nature. It is argued...



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