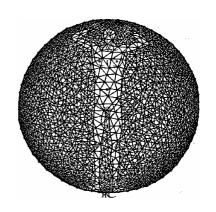
МІЖДИСЦИПЛІНАРНИЙ СЕМІНАР ОБРІЇ НАУКИ



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Back to the Future: The Wisdom of a Realist Philosophy of Nature and the Sophistry of Scientism

The natural sciences (sometimes called the modern empirical sciences) employ univocal terms and definitions operating under a Newtonian paradigm of external forces causing changes in the state of motion of objects. In and of itself, this is a useful and effective. However, if such a vision is adopted as a philosophical basis for understanding all of reality, interpretive problems are bound to occur... and, in fact, can be credited with most of the confusion in understanding scientific findings—from evolutionary theory and socalled Intelligent Design to the mind-vs.-brain ontroversies, to the reification of mathematical formalisms in quantum mechanics and cosmology. For example, the most serious error that lies at the base of the philosophical monisms of naturalism, physicalism, and materialism is a failure to distinguish ontological types (which drives descriptions of things): reality is "flatlanded" down to one kind of existent, and the perceived variety of existing things can be explained in terms of a single reality or substance. This, in turn, drives those who pseudo-philosophically assert that the natural sciences are the ultimate epistemic arbiters of all knowledge (scientism). This presentation will examine the pedigree of thinking, largely arising during the 16th century, which unnecessarily led to such interpretative problems through the illicit adoption of a mechanistic paradigm from Galileo and Newton, as well as the wholly unnecessary subsequent conflicts between the natural sciences and other disciplines.

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