

# A Defense Of The Explanatory Argument For Physicalism

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this book develops and applies a novel kind of explanation empty base explanation while ordinary explanations have a tripartite structure involving an explanandum a base of reasons why the explanandum obtains and a link that connects the reasons to the explanandum this book argues that there are explanations whose corresponding set of reasons is empty this novel idea is located in the theoretical background of several fundamental philosophical issues for example it provides a convincing kind of ultimate or final explanation that completely and conclusively explains a phenomenon without involving other phenomena for which further explanations could be demanded the possibility and fruitfulness of empty base explanation is defended by general considerations from the theory of explanation as well as concrete applications to the practice of explanation by status the explanation of logical theorems causal connections and laws of nature self explanation the use of ibe in metaphysics the notion of zero ground which it provides with a solid theoretical footing and ultimate explanation and its application to philosophical cosmology the debate about the psr and the question of why there is anything at all for this book yannic kappes has received the 2022 de gruyter prize for ontology and metaphysics from the german society for analytic philosophy gap

the first in depth reference to the field that combines scientific knowledge with philosophical inquiry this encyclopedia brings together a team of leading scholars to provide nearly 150 entries on the essential concepts in the philosophy of science the areas covered include biology chemistry epistemology and metaphysics physics psychology and mind the social sciences and key figures in the combined studies of science and philosophy midwest

this book examines the various norms for the logic and methodology of science placing them in the context of the cognitive interests and explanatory ideals that motivate science various themes in the philosophy of science are examined including the views of k popper t kuhn and l laudan characteristic cases of scientific theories are examined in order to illustrate and justify the proposed norms these include on the one hand the emergence of the science of galileo kepler and newton from the older metaphysical style of explanation to be found in aristotle and on the other hand darwin s theory of natural selection also included are characteristic cases of pseudoscience including creation science lysenkoism velikovsky ufos and ancient astronauts astrology parapsychology and various kinds of alternative medicine from these examples and the more theoretical discussion there emerges a series of norms for demarcating science and pseudoscience various aspects of the scientific method are examined in detail including the role of hypotheses the logical structure of theories and how these relate to the experimental methods of john stuart mill collection for example what do we say about observational reports of the existence of ufos in this context there is a discussion of some of the issues raised in the so called science wars it is concluded that the sociology of science can at times be helpful to the scientific community in improving their methods of investigation

mathematical platonism is the view that mathematical statements are true of real mathematical objects like numbers shapes and sets one central problem with platonism is that numbers shapes sets and the like are not perceivable by our senses in contemporary philosophy the most common defense of platonism uses what is known as the indispensability argument according to the indispensabilist we can know about mathematics because mathematics is essential to science platonism is among the most persistent philosophical views our mathematical beliefs are among our most entrenched they have survived the demise of millennia of failed scientific theories once established mathematical theories are rarely rejected and never for reasons of their inapplicability to empirical science autonomy platonism and the indispensability argument is a defense of an alternative to indispensability platonism the autonomy platonist believes that mathematics is independent of empirical science there is purely mathematical evidence for purely mathematical theories which are even more compelling to believe than empirical science russell marcus begins by contrasting autonomy platonism and indispensability platonism he then argues against a variety of indispensability arguments in the first half of the book in the latter half he defends a new approach to a traditional platonistic view one which includes appeals to a priori but fallible methods of belief acquisition including mathematical intuition and a natural adoption of ordinary mathematical methods in the end marcus defends his intuition based autonomy platonism against charges that the autonomy of mathematics is viciously circular this book will be useful to researchers graduate students and advanced undergraduates with interests in the philosophy of mathematics or in the connection between science and mathematics

sudduth provides a critical exploration of classical empirical arguments for survival arguments that purport to show that data collected from ostensibly paranormal phenomena constitute good evidence for the survival of the self after death utilizing the conceptual tools of formal epistemology he argues that classical arguments are unsuccessful

this valuable collection presents some of the classic essays as well as recent work in the theory of explanation a principal topic in the philosophy of science

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