

Universal Empiricism

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In this talk, I consider and reject van Fraassen's conception of observability and corresponding brand of empiricism. I put forth an alternative conception of observability that seeks to allay the realist's concerns about the validity of instrument-based observation in science yet preserves vital empiricist sensitivities. Along with the new conception of observability I lay the foundations for a new form of empiricism. Universal empiricism, as I call it, divorces itself from traditional conceptions of experience while remaining wedded to what is epistemically meritorious about empiricism, namely the idea that truth-conducive contact with the environment is the ultimate judge of knowledge.