

European Studies in Philosophy of Science

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Recent  
Developments in  
the Philosophy  
of Science:  
EPSA13 Helsinki

 Springer

# European Studies in Philosophy of Science

## Volume 1

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# Recent Developments in the Philosophy of Science: EPSA13 Helsinki

 Springer

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# Preface

The European Philosophy of Science Association [EPSA] was established in 2007 to promote the philosophy of science on the European continent and beyond. One major way this is achieved is through the Association's biennial conference, which brings together hundreds of philosophers of science from numerous countries, working on a variety of sub-fields. The 2013 conference took place at the University of Helsinki, and was organized by the Academy of Finland Centre of Excellence in the Philosophy of the Social Sciences [TINT]. For the programme and other details, see [www.helsinki.fi/epsa13/](http://www.helsinki.fi/epsa13/).

As an indication of the growing interest in EPSA and its activities, the EPSA13 Programme Committee, chaired by Stéphanie Ruphy and Gerhard Schurz, received submissions for 391 contributed papers and 21 symposia. About one third of the proposed contributed papers and one half of the proposed symposia were accepted. This resulted in a programme with 206 speakers in 47 sessions, of which 12 were symposia and 3 were invited keynote plenaries.

After each EPSA conference a corresponding Proceedings is put together. Its aim is to showcase written up versions of some of the very best work presented at that edition of the conference. The present volume contains twenty-nine peer-reviewed contributions sourced from the 2013 meeting of EPSA. The purpose of this preface is not to provide a detailed overview of each contribution – there are simply too many to do them justice here – but rather to give the reader a little foretaste of the kinds of topics on offer.

The twenty-nine contributions can be classified under the following coarsely-grained topic headings (their frequency stated within brackets): general philosophy of science (x7), philosophy of physics (x5), social epistemology (x4), philosophy of probability (x3), philosophy of chemistry (x2), philosophy of medicine (x2), philosophy of the social sciences and humanities (x2), philosophy of biology (x1), philosophy of mathematics (x1), philosophy of psychology (x1) and philosophy of science and public policy (x1). Of course this classification is imperfect, as some papers deal with more than one of the foregoing headings. Moreover some headings have not even made our list. For example, some papers have a discernible historical vein, though not discernible enough to warrant the label 'history of science papers'. In

spite of the limitations of our classification, we feel that it is adequate for the task at hand, namely to inform the reader about the distribution of topics in this collection.

A more finely-grained identification of topics demonstrates the rather broad distribution of interests: gender-specific medicine (Amoretti and Vassalo), laws of nature, partial structures and paraconsistent reasoning (Andreas), science funding (Avin), quantum field theory (Bain), fictions, explanation and thermodynamics (Bangu), causality and physics (Bartels and Wohlfarth), values and underdetermination (Bueter), debate dynamics and truthlikeness (Cevolani), judgment aggregation and wisdom of crowds (Feldbacher), Carnap's inductive logic and explications (French), local causality and Bell inequality (Gábor), concepts of emotional expression (Glazer), Bertrand's paradox and interpretations of probability (Gyenis and Rédei), chemical kinds (Hendry), manipulation, intervention and explanation (Kästner), objectivity and values in indigenous studies (Koskinen), causality, complexity and abstraction (Kronfeldner), clinical trials (Nardini), logical empiricism and structural realism (Neuber), causality and decoherence (Samaniego), measures of coherence and truthlikeness (Schippers), robustness analysis and evidential diversity (Schupbach), explanation, idealisation and reduction in quantum chemistry (Seck), scientific representation, fiction and denotation (Suárez), biological essentialism and species pluralism (Talpsepp), realism, scientific progress and verisimilitude (Tambolo), meta-induction and wisdom of crowds (Thorn), rational choice theory and normativity (Tiefensee) and definitions of chaos (Zuchowski).

We would like to extend our warmest gratitude to a number of individuals and organisations. First and foremost we would like to thank the authors whose contributions are, needless to say, the main attraction. We would also like to thank the referees most of whom served on the EPSA13 programme committee. In alphabetical order: Alban Bouvier, Ellen Clarke, Michael Cuffaro, Foad Dizadj-Bahmani, Isabelle Drouet, Kevin Elliott, Mathias Frisch, Sven-Ove Hansson, Stephan Hartmann, Janet Kourany, Bernd Lahno, Endla Lõhkivi, Kerry McKenzie, F.A. Muller, Nancy Nersessian, Wendy Parker, Tom Pashby, Helmut Pulte, Alexander Reutlinger, Bryan W. Roberts, Samuel Schindler, Sonja Smets, Katie Steele, Michael Stöltzner, Mauricio Suárez, David Teira, Charlotte Werndl and Jan Wolenski. Additionally, we would like to thank the local organising committee of EPSA13 for all the effort put into an excellently organised conference, as well as the EPSA steering committee for facilitating our work and for putting the ball in motion. Finally, we would like to thank the good people at Springer who helped make this volume a reality. Three names, in particular, deserve to be mentioned: Christi Lue, Madhuriba Subaroyalou and Ties Nijssen. We very much hope that the readers will find the contents of the Proceedings edifying and inspiring, thereby making the efforts of the above mentioned all the more worthwhile.

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