Some Thoughts on Observability

Ioannis Votsis (Northeastern University London)

In this talk, I make some exploratory comments (formulated as questions, inviting further clarifications, elaborations and discussion) on Roman Frigg's excellent book Models and Theories. To be precise, I focus on observability and cognate notions. My discussion is divided into four sections: 1. observation vs. theoretical terms and the limits of rational reconstruction, 2. observables vs. unobservables and relativisation to epistemic communities, 3. antecedently understood vs. new terms and epistemic credibility and 4. data models and theoriticity.