Philosophy of Natural Science

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Abstract

Originally published in Contemporary Psychology: APA Review of Books, 1967, Vol 12(2), 95. Reviews the book, Philosophy of Natural Science by Carl G. Hempel (see record 1966-11595-000). This book offers an introduction to some of the central topics in the contemporary methodology and philosophy of natural science. A glance at the contents and text indicates an emphasis on physical science (as for example in the choice of illustrative materials) rather than behavioral. Nevertheless, this volume, will be of interest to that small group of psychologists who are still interested in formal logical aspects of empirical science. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2006 APA, all rights reserved)
The term natural philosophy, or the philosophy of nature (Latin, philosophia naturalis), has several applications, according to its historical context. Before the development of modern science, “natural philosophy” referred to the objective study of nature and the physical universe, and is considered the counterpart, or the precursor, of what is now called natural science, especially physics. Naturphilosophie, a German philosophical movement prevalent from 1790 until about 1830, is chiefly associated with Friedrich Schelling and G.W.F. Hegel, and championed the concept of an organic and dynamical...