

A Bridge over Troubled Cultures. The Impact of Philosophy of Science in Britain

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Abstract

Who are the major figures that have shaped philosophy of science in Britain? What impact has the subject had in Britain outside academic philosophy? How have two of the major centers of the subject - in Pittsburgh and in London - interacted over the years? I begin by looking briefly at the recent history of philosophy of science in Britain and its general impact (tying this in with its interaction with the Pittsburgh Center and Pittsburgh people.

It seems to me, though, that the best way to celebrate an anniversary like that of the Pittsburgh Center is by predominantly looking forward rather than back. And I concentrate in this lecture on showing how philosophy of science can have an impact on issues of current concern, in Britain and more generally.

Keywords: Popper, Grunbaum, Salmon, Science and Society, Evidential fallacies, DNA profiles,

Randomised controlled trials

Subjects: General Issues: Confirmation/Induction

General Issues: Ethical Issues

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