



Hobbes's Philosophy of Science

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (25 October 2022)

Message from the Guest Editor

Hobbes is known for his scientific failures than his successes (having fared poorly in his disputes with Boyle and Wallis), but his methodological approach remains of interest for the light it can shed on seventeenth-century understandings of knowledge and its sources. The principal aim of this issue will be to place Hobbes' philosophy of science in its broader intellectual context and to explore its connections with other approaches to scientific methodology.

The topics of interest include:

1. The role of experiment in natural philosophy.
2. The status of mathematics and its place in Hobbes' philosophy of science.
3. Hobbes' engagement with the science and methodology of Descartes, Galileo, and Roberval.
4. Hobbes' contested relationship with the Royal Society (and, in particular, Boyle and Wallis).
5. The status of hypotheses and their explanatory role in Hobbesian methodology.
6. Hobbes' understanding of mechanism and the "mechanical philosophy".
7. The relationship between Hobbes' general philosophy of science and his science of politics.
8. Hobbes' account of analysis and synthesis and its role in his methodology.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Philosophies searches for the syntheses of philosophical and scientific inquiries. It promotes philosophical work that is derived from the experience of diverse scientific disciplines and cultures. Multiple philosophies already exist — those of logic, information, computation, natural and artificial life, natural or artificial intelligence, complexity, technology, etc. Our mission is not to abandon philosophical roots and traditions of inquiry, but to promote the development of philosophical foundations and effective methodologies derived from diverse scientific explorations, and intended to enhance these explorations as to generate deeper and more holistic knowledge. Innovation may also be achieved through the cultural dimension. Other cultures can offer from their heritage a diversity of resources for exploration; these resources can also contribute to the emergent synthesis of philosophical inquiry.

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