ABSTRACTS

Rafael Zepeda, De la poesía concreta (1968)
SUMMARY. Among the topics covered by discussion on causation between events is causation that involves omissions. If, by having taken precautions, the robbery would not have occurred, then the omission of not having taken precautions is the cause for the robbery. On the other hand, if the robbery did not take place because of the precautions taken, we say that those precautions are a preventor of the robbery. Some kind of mirror relationship has been suggested from which derives that not taking precautions and removing them is equivalent. In this paper, such an equivalence is analyzed and it is shown that it has no support for the cases which involve states of affairs. Analyzing causation involves dealing with causation by omission and causation of omission. In the first case, omission to take precautions is the cause of a certain disaster. In the second, having taken such precautions is the cause for not obtaining the mentioned disaster: to take precautions is a preventor of the disaster. It has been pointed out that there exists a mirror relationship between omissions and preventors, giving as a consequence that omitting to establish preventors should be equivalent to removing preventors previously provided. In this paper we analyze this equivalence, and conclude that it cannot be supported when states of affairs take place in the role of causes or of effects.

KEY WORDS: Causation, omission, preventor, counterfactuals, events.
**EPISTEMIC FILTERS AND RELEVANT ALTERNATIVES**

Alejandro G. Miroli

**SUMMARY.** This paper is aimed at doing a contribution to the notion of relevant alternative to the philosophy of science: the hypothesis is that such a notion helps enriching the analysis of the relations between orthodox sciences and the problem of dissidence in sciences. And finally we will examine one case presenting the problem of epistemic dissidence in an extreme form: the case of homeopathy. In this sense, given the limitations of this paper, our interest is proposing some clues for the reconstruction and examination of the concept of relevant alternative by examining the relation between homeopathy and actual medicine.

**KEY WORDS:** Scepticism, relevant alternative, logia of referee, epistemic dissidence, contextualism.

**AN EPISTEMOLOGICAL CRITICISM TO LARRY LAUDAN’S SCIENTIFIC METAMETHODOLOGY**

María Alicia Pazos

**SUMMARY.** This paper is intended to (1) outline the metamethodological proposal by Larry Laudan in his book *Beyond Positivism and Relativism* (1996), which would provide a foundation for the evaluation of scientific methodologies, that warrants —according to the author— objectivity in sciences and (2) develop a detailed criticism of two theses from this proposal. I suggest these theses are not justified so that a reformulation or radical change would be needed in order for the objectivity of science to be maintained. However, replacing a metamethodology with another could be misleading, since this eludes the fundamental skeptical problem of the justification of knowledge. I will not conclude the end of philosophy in skepticism; nevertheless, my arguments point towards this very overwhelming direction.
TECHNIFIED OBSERVATIONS AND COMPARABILITY IN SCIENCES

Carlos E. González

SUMMARY. In this paper, I criticize the notion of incommensurability between scientific theories proposed by Kuhn and I put forward a form of comparability based on what I call technified observations as a way to avoid the problem of theory-laddenness produced by un-translatability between theories. I develop three criticisms to the notion of translation that underlies the kuhnian project and to the use of the term incommensurability to refer to this form of lack of isomorphism. I also suggest a way in which progress in science is possible. Finally, I point out some consequences this proposal has for the philosophy, history and sociology of science and for some issues in general epistemology.

KEY WORDS: Comparability, Kuhn, incommensurability, translatability, theory-laddenness.

EPISTEMOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION. NOTES FOR A DEBATE

Tanius Karam Cárdenas

SUMMARY. In this paper, I discuss the scientific possibilities of communication. The debate focuses on some aspects of the epistemology of communication epistemology and of the construction of a general science to explain social reality and culture. In this essay, I present the main arguments for those who regard scientificity as a possibility or as a vain enterprise. In the second part, I review ample visions of communication by those who call themselves “communicologists”; that is, scientists who have mainly reflected on communication, from outside
communication studies. Finally, I explain why communication has become the area of inquiry that leads to the temptation of regarding it as the meeting point of sciences, whose object is information.

Key words: Science, epistemology, communication, theory, Communicology.

Epistemological and methodological aspects of the Weber/Marx debate

María Celia Duek

Summary. Many scholars have pointed out that the work of Max Weber supposes a permanent confrontation with classical Marxism. Elaborating on this idea, this paper’s goal is to review and critically appraise the epistemological and methodological discussion Weber takes on with historical materialism in his essay Cognitive “objectivity” of social science and policy. The “monist” tendency in causal explanation, on the one hand, and the ignorance of the “fictional”, “typical-ideal” or “instrumental” character of its laws and concepts and, on the other, are the two pillars on which Weber builds up his criticism.

Key words: Marx, Weber, causality, laws, ideal type.

Artículos

Foundation of ethics? Human life: from Porfirio Miranda to Ignacio Ellacuría

Enrique Dussel

Summary. The main thesis of the article consists of showing, confronted with rationalist positions (such as Porfirio Miranda’s, Karl-Otto Apel’s
or Mario Rojas’), that it is necessary to establish the scope of discourse from a wider horizon. Rationalism tends to define human being essentially as a thinking, rational being. It is necessary to show that human being is, above all, a “living carnality”. Life is human being’s reality mode; affectivity and rationality are two dimensions of the living being itself, i.e., of life. Life is not a condition of reason or argument. These two are not the essential moment of human being and its finality, but, on the contrary, life is the fundamental moment and rationality a dimension to achieve a full life. The foundation of ethics has to derive from the reality of the living being and can also use a transcendental foundation of rationality bearing always in mind that it is not the last instance from a metaphysical point of view and not purely discoursive.

**Key Words:** Ethics, foundation, material principle of ethics, P. Miranda, I. Ellacuría, human life, subjectivity.

**The Concept of Political in Nicholas Machiavelli**

Luis Leandro Schenoni

**Summary.** This work attempts to analyze the thought of Nicholas Machiavelli from an original perspective, paying special attention to his conception of politics.

First, we set out to discover the meaning of politics for Machiavelli, his founding presuppositions and the proper characteristics of what he calls “political”.

Afterwards, we put forward the hypothesis that this author’s moral and anthropological conceptions are intrinsically intertwined with his general ideas about politics and power and are their logical derivatives. This review of Machiavelli’s work will allow us to make a comprehensive analysis of the philosophical thought underlying his conceptions and to provide an explanation for his notions of man, power and morality.

**Key Words:** Politics, political, machiavelli’s theory, machiavellianism.
POlITICAL AND JOURNALISTIC DRAMATIZATION
JOURNALISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE INTERNAL ELECTION
OF PRI TO ELECT ITS CANDIDATE TO THE MEXIQUENSE GOVERNMENT

José Ramón Santillán Buelna

SUMMARY. Party struggles constitute an important moment to analyze the interaction between the political and the media systems. Press representations by means of production and treatment of information are key aspects for the constitution of the thematic agenda. The internal selection of the candidate to the government of the State of Mexico by PRI for the 2005 elections is an example of the construction of political discourse through journalistic practices. This relationship uncovers newspapers as subordinates to political power. The degree of subordination of the press is analyzed in three newspapers where the results highlight a press that supports official versions of the internal process that simulate competition and division of the local PRI.

KEY WORDS: Press, governor, PRI, thematic agenda, candidate, State of Mexico.

THE FAILURE OF DESCENTRALIZATION IN ARGENTINA

Horacio Cao y Josefina Vaca

SUMMARY. This paper has the objective of carrying out a critical analysis of the theories that justified the decentralizing process in the Republic of Argentina, trying to determine, from the perspective of their failure, their most fundamental weaknesses. With this objective in mind, I start with a succinct description of the decentralizing process in Argentina and the advantages that, according to its supporters, these actions would bring about. Afterwards, I criticize these concepts, detailing, according to the authors, the reasons why the expected results could not be achieved.
KEY WORDS: Decentralization, provinces, municipalities, federalism, local development, structural adjustment.