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Elements in the Philosophy of Martin Heidegger

edited by

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Lehigh University

Daniel O. Dahlstrom

Boston University

HEIDEGGER'S CONCEPT OF SCIENCE

Paul Goldberg

St. John's College



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Heidegger's Concept of Science

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Paul Goldberg
St. John's College

Author for correspondence: Paul Goldberg, paul.goldberg92@gmail.com

Abstract: This Element argues that Heidegger's concept of science has two core features. Heidegger critiques a *security-oriented concept of science*, which he associates with the dominance of physics in modern science and metaphysics and with a progressive resistance among philosophers and scientists to ontological questioning. Meanwhile, Heidegger advances an *access-oriented concept of science*, on which science is essentially founded on ontological disclosures but also constantly open to the possibility of new revolutionary disclosures. This Element discusses how these commitments develop in Heidegger's early and later thinking, and argues that they inform his views on the history of Western metaphysics and on the possibilities for human flourishing that modernity, and modern science specifically, affords. The Element also discusses Heidegger's dialogue with Werner Heisenberg about quantum physics; and throughout, it highlights points of contact and divergence between Heidegger and other philosophers of science such as Karl Popper, Thomas Kuhn, Paul Feyerabend, and Helen Longino.

Keywords: Martin Heidegger, science, physicalism, technology, Werner Heisenberg

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Contents

Texts and Method of Citation	2
1 Introduction: Heidegger’s Concept of Science	4
2 Key Concepts for the Early Heidegger’s Approach to Science	13
3 Heidegger’s Critique of Physicalism in <i>Being and Time</i>	23
4 The Early Heidegger on Science, Truth, and Authenticity	37
5 Continuity and Development in the Later Heidegger’s Approach to Science	46
6 Heidegger and Heisenberg on Quantum Physics, Science, Technology, and Modernity	53
7 Coda: Open Questions	67
References	69