

INTERPRETING FEYERABEND

This collection of new essays interprets and critically evaluates the philosophy of Paul Feyerabend. It offers innovative historical scholarship on Feyerabend's take on topics such as realism, empiricism, mimesis, voluntarism, pluralism, materialism, and the mind-body problem, as well as certain debates in the philosophy of physics. It also considers the ways in which Feyerabend's thought can contribute to contemporary debates in science and public policy, including questions about the nature of scientific methodology, the role of science in society, citizen science, scientism, and the role of expertise in public policy. The volume will provide readers with a comprehensive overview of the topics that Feyerabend engaged with throughout his career, showing both the breadth and the depth of his thought.

KARIM BSCHR is a Lecturer at the University of St Gallen, Switzerland. His research focuses on topics in the general philosophy of science and the history of philosophy of science. He has written on the relationship of Feyerabend's pluralism to Popper's critical rationalism.

JAMIE SHAW is Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute for History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto. His primary research interests revolve around the implications of Feyerabend's pluralism for science funding policy.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-47199-2 — Interpreting Feyerabend
Edited by Karim Bschr , Jamie Shaw
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

INTERPRETING FEYERABEND

Critical Essays

EDITED BY

KARIM BSCHR

University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

JAMIE SHAW

University of Toronto



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-47199-2 — Interpreting Feyerabend
Edited by Karim Bschr , Jamie Shaw
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108471992
DOI: 10.1017/9781108575102

© Karim Bschr and Jamie Shaw 2021

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2021

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-108-47199-2 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>List of Tables</i>	viii
<i>List of Contributors</i>	ix
Introduction: Paul Feyerabend's Philosophy in the Twenty-First Century	
<i>Jamie Shaw and Karim Bschr</i>	i
1 Feyerabend on Art and Science	ii
<i>Chiara Ambrosio</i>	
2 The Coherence of Feyerabend's Pluralist Realism	40
<i>Hasok Chang</i>	
3 Feyerabend's General Theory of Scientific Change	57
<i>Hakob Barseghyan</i>	
4 Feyerabend's Theoretical Pluralism: An Investigation of the Epistemic Value of False Theories	72
<i>K. Brad Wray</i>	
5 Epistemological Anarchism Meets Epistemic Voluntarism: Feyerabend's <i>Against Method</i> and van Fraassen's <i>The Empirical Stance</i>	89
<i>Martin Kusch</i>	
6 Feyerabend Never Was an Eliminative Materialist: Feyerabend's Meta-Philosophy and the Mind–Body Problem	114
<i>Jamie Shaw</i>	
7 Feyerabend's Re-evaluation of Scientific Practice: Quantum Mechanics, Realism and Niels Bohr	132
<i>Daniel Kuby</i>	

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
8	On Feyerabend, General Relativity, and “Unreasonable” Universes <i>J.B. Manchak</i>	157
9	Feyerabend, Science and Scientism <i>Ian James Kidd</i>	172
10	Against Expertise: A Lesson from Feyerabend’s <i>Science in a Free Society?</i> <i>Matthew J. Brown</i>	191
11	A Way Forward for Citizen Science: Taking Advice from a Madman <i>Sarah M. Roe</i>	213
	<i>Bibliography</i>	231
	<i>Index</i>	257

Figures

1.1	Maestro di Tressa, <i>Madonna dagli Occhi Grossi</i> (c. 1225)	<i>page</i> 14
1.2	Raphael, <i>Madonna del Granduca</i> (c. 1505)	14
1.3	Albrecht Dürer, <i>Rhinoceros</i> (c. 1515)	21
1.4	Jan Wandelaar, ‘the rhinoceros as it had been commonly depicted’	22
1.5	Jan Wandelaar, ‘the rhinoceros according to this description’	23
4.1	The Tyconic system: the Earth is at the centre	80
4.2	The Ptolemaic and Copernican systems: the arrangement of Mars, the Sun and the Earth when Mars (at the top) is in opposition to the Sun	83
8.1	An event with associated cone structure is depicted along with a pair of causal vectors (one spatial dimension has been suppressed)	160
8.2	A non-chronological model of the universe is depicted with a self-intersecting future-directed timelike curve (two spatial dimensions have been suppressed)	161
8.3	The de Sitter and “unrolled” de Sitter models are depicted, both with a representative causal past bounded by the dotted lines. Each model is observationally indistinguishable from the other (two spatial dimensions have been suppressed)	164
8.4	The first model is extendible. The second model is an extension of the first and is inextendible (two spatial dimensions have been suppressed)	165
8.5	The Misner model. The region below the dotted line is a globally hyperbolic vacuum solution when taken as a model in its own right (two spatial dimensions have been suppressed)	168

Tables

4.1 Five competing astronomical theories and their relationship to four hypotheses	<i>page</i> 82
8.1 A synopsis of the situation so far	170
8.2 Results concerning variant theories of general relativity	171

Contributors

CHIARA AMBROSIO is Associate Professor in history and philosophy of science at the Department of Science and Technology Studies, University College London. Her research interests include visual culture and the relationship between science and art in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, scientific representations, American pragmatism, particularly the philosophy of C.S. Peirce, and the legacy of pragmatism in broader debates in history and philosophy of science. Her chapter in this volume is her first contribution to the scholarship on Feyerabend, but she has been a practicing Feyerabendian for most of her academic life.

HAKOB BARSEGHYAN is an Assistant Professor at Victoria College, University of Toronto. He is the author of *The Laws of Scientific Change* (2015), which seeks to uncover patterns of how scientific theories and method change through time. He is also the co-creator of the *Encyclopaedia of Scientonomy* (https://www.scientowiki.com/Main_Page) and the *Journal of Scientonomy* (<https://scientojournal.com/index.php/scientonomy>).

MATTHEW J. BROWN is the Director of the Center for Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology, Program Head for history and philosophy, and Professor of philosophy and history of ideas at the University of Texas at Dallas. The main areas of his research deal with the intersection of science with values, the way science informs policy, and the history of philosophy of science. His book *Science and Moral Imagination: A New Ideal for Values in Science* (University of Pittsburgh Press) explores the role of values in science and the scientific basis of values from a broadly pragmatist perspective. See more at: <http://www.matthewjbrown.net/>

KARIM BSCHRIR is a Lecturer at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland. His research focuses on topics in the general philosophy of science and the

history of philosophy of science. He has written on the relationship of Feyerabend's pluralism to Popper's critical rationalism.

HASOK CHANG is the Hans Rausing Professor of history and philosophy of science at the University of Cambridge. He received his degrees from Caltech and Stanford, and has taught at University College London. He is the author of *Is Water H₂O? Evidence, Realism and Pluralism* (2012), and *Inventing Temperature: Measurement and Scientific Progress* (2004). He is a co-founder of the Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP) and the Committee for Integrated History and Philosophy of Science.

IAN JAMES KIDD is a Lecturer in philosophy at the University of Nottingham. His research interests include the philosophy of science, epistemology, and the history of Austro-German philosophy. He was the editor, with Matthew J. Brown, of *Reappraising Feyerabend* (2016) and is a author of several papers on Feyerabend's philosophy. His website is www.ianjameskidd.weebly.com

DANIEL KUBY is a postdoctoral researcher in the project "Forcing: Conceptual Change in the Foundations of Mathematics" at the University of Konstanz, Germany. His research interests include the history of scientific philosophy and philosophy of science (logical empiricism, Feyerabend); the history and philosophy of modern set theory (forcing); and, more recently, the philosophy of computer science (programming languages).

MARTIN KUSCH is Professor of philosophy of science and epistemology at the University of Vienna. He previously taught in Oulu (Finland), Edinburgh, and Cambridge. His book *Relativism in the Philosophy of Science* is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press, and he recently edited the *Routledge Handbook for the Philosophy of Relativism*.

J.B. MANCHAK is Professor of logic and philosophy of science at the University of California, Irvine. His work centers on the limits of our knowledge concerning the spatio-temporal structure of the universe.

SARAH M. ROE is an Associate Professor of history and philosophy at Southern Connecticut State University. Her research interests include the ethical and social implications of science, generalizations, and explanation within science and the history of medicine.

JAMIE SHAW is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute for History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto. His

List of Contributors

xi

primary research interests revolve around the implications of Feyerabend's pluralism for science funding policy.

K. BRAD WRAY works at the Centre for Science Studies at Aarhus University in Denmark. His research addresses issues in the social epistemology of science, Kuhn's philosophy of science, and the anti-realism/realism debate in the philosophy of science. His publications include Kuhn's *Evolutionary Social Epistemology* (2011) and *Resisting Scientific Realism* (2018), both with Cambridge University Press. He is also one of the coeditors of the Springer/Nature journal *Metascience*.