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SCIENCE BETWEEN SCIENTISM AND EPISTEMOLOGICAL REALISM

*Abstract*

Because of its remarkable results, science seems to have no limits about its application fields. Scientism is the philosophy which justifies such a claim. Nevertheless this philosophy is founded on some epistemological presuppositions, two of which are discussed in this essay, that are very different from those of genuine science. Epistemological realism instead appears to be the firm philosophical background implicitly presupposed by true scientific activity, inside which the recovery of a right notion of the metaphysical term ‘contingency’ allows to light up adequately reach and limits of science.