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THE ETHICS OF FEYERABEND'S EPISTEMOLOGY

*Abstract*

Feyerabend's philosophy, which branches out into multiple, controversial streams and is the font of debate on various themes, itself poses serious problems when attempting a global, critical reconstruction.

The "anarchic epistemology" label, even though supported by Feyerabend himself, while on the one hand referring to the multiplicity of the adversaries at which the Austrian philosopher launches his arrows (and to the provocative style of many of his statements) is, on the other hand inadequate in doing justice to the progressive change of his thoughts as he moves from the purity of the epistemological to the ethical-politological (where real anarchy has no place), but above all it risks betraying the fundamental inspiration of his philosophy, the ethos which strengthens it.

The propensity for ethical discourse finds many points coming from epistemological works (where "against method" criticism grafts itself onto the base of a wider analysis of the 'paradigm of modernity') and then comes together in a coherent manner, delineating the political ideals of a free society. What unites the two, what lies at the heart of the whole Feyerabend philosophical way, is freedom and democracy.

