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ON THE COSMOLOGICAL RESEARCH TRADITIONS – II

*Abstract*

The paper presents some methodological and meta-methodological aspects of modern cosmology. Particular attention is given to the “fine” structure of the cosmological research tradition, and to the competition of different cosmological research traditions. Two models of such competition are briefly discussed: competition of scientific research programmes (I. Lakatos), and the “catastrophic” model of cosmology (A. Pacholczyk). It seems that both Lakatos and Pacholczyk describe some important aspects of the competition between different cosmological research traditions, but their methodological models should be referred to the different levels of methodological description of science (and/or cosmology). The discussion of various levels in the methodological description of science is then proposed in the context of D. Gillies’ discussion of the principle of explanatory surplus. The Gillies’ scheme applied both in physics and in cosmology leads to the conclusion which is presented in terms of the analogous concept of science (E. Agazzi).