

Perspectives on Structuralism

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The Munich conference on the structuralist approach was motivated, first, by novel developments concerning the structuralist meta-theory and, second, by the relevance of ongoing research for current issues in general philosophy of science. The range of topics addressed is broad—including theoretical terms and concepts, causation, explanation, social processes, the syntactic approach to scientific theories, quantitative science studies, and the dynamics of science. Below, we give a brief introduction to the basic concepts of the structuralist approach, addressed to the uninitiated reader. We take this special issue to evidence that structuralist insights and methods remain applicable well beyond the reconstruction of an empirical theory's mathematical structure.

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