

Bethe Colloquium

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The Current Status of Non-Empirical Confirmation

Non-empirical and meta-empirical confirmation were initially proposed as concepts for understanding the degree of trust many theoretical physicists have developed in empirically unconfirmed theories such as string theory. In recent years, the analysis has broadened. The basic arguments of meta-empirical theory assessment are now taken to play an implicit but central background role in all confirmation, be it empirical or non-empirical. To the extent confirmation is about generating trust in a scientific theory, meta-empirical theory assessment must be involved. This perspective contributes to a clearer understanding of the continuities between empirical and non-empirical confirmation. It also allows for a more nuanced appraisal of research contexts where both forms of confirmation happen side by side. In the talk, I will present the rationale behind the described view and illustrate it with examples from high energy physics and cosmology.

Zoom meeting

Thursday, April 22, 2021, at 16 c.t.

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