

Paradox Of Predictivism

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This account of predictivism has considerable consequences for the realist/anti-realist debate. An enduring question in the philosophy of science is the question of whether a scientific theory deserves more credit for its successful predictions than it does for accommodating data that was already known when the theory was developed. In *The Paradox of Predictivism*, Eric Barnes argues that the successful prediction of evidence testifies to the general credibility of the predictor in a way that evidence does not when the evidence is used in the process of endorsing the theory. He illustrates his argument with an important episode from nineteenth-century chemistry, Mendeleev's Periodic Law and its successful predictions of the existence of various elements. The consequences of this account of predictivism for the realist/anti-realist debate are considerable, and strengthen the status of the 'no miracle' argument for scientific realism. Barnes's important and original contribution to the debate will interest a wide range of readers in philosophy of science. EAN/ISBN : 9780511389641 Publisher(s): Cambridge University Press Format: ePub/PDF Author(s): Barnes, Eric Christian

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