

Laura Franklin-Hall

Metaphysics through Science: The Case of Kinds

How might scientific practice be used to establish--or undermine metaphysical--conclusions? This paper characterizes one distinctive strategy--the genealogical critique--and contrasts it with other attempts to use present and past science in metaphysical arguments. In particular, I will argue that details of current and past classificatory practice give us reason to endorse natural kind anti-realism: the thesis that the universe does not have mind-independent joints at which our classifications should cut. In addition to laying out this argument, I compare it to more famous uses of science in the service of metaphysics offered by Kuhn, Laudan, and Dupre.