

PREFACE

When I first began my studies for my PhD I intended to produce a new, positive account of scientific rationality. My supervisor, C. B. Christensen, advised me that to produce a positive account of scientific rationality I must first ‘deal with’ the critique of scientific rationality found in the writings of Paul Feyerabend. Consequently, I embarked upon a study of Feyerabend, intending to devote a chapter to ‘refuting’ Feyerabend’s critique of scientific rationality. However, once I began to read Feyerabend I was struck by the huge disparity in my reading of Feyerabend and the interpretations found in the literature. In attempting to explain my interpretation of Feyerabend, the planned introductory chapter blossomed into a full-fledged thesis.

One week *after* I submitted my thesis (*Feyerabend’s Epistemological Anarchism and Values-Based Rationality*, ANU, 1998) I had an intellectual epiphany as to how I *should* have written my thesis. Subsequently, even though my thesis was passed, I embarked on the process of rewriting my thesis, the results of which are contained herein.

Even though I was distracted from my initial project, the original goal was achieved: I believe that the idea of a values-based rationality is of great importance and constitutes a valid alternative account of rationality. I sincerely hope that the readers of this book concur with my assessment.

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Part of chapter 4 previously appeared as “Feyerabend’s Metaphysics: Process-Realism, or Voluntarist-Idealism?”, *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, 32, 2001, pp. 351-369 (Kluwer Academic Publishers). Most of chapter 5 originally appeared as “Rival Theories and Empirical Content Revisited”, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, 31, 2000, pp. 137-49 (Elsevier Science). And part of chapter 6 appeared as “Will the Popperian Feyerabend Please step Forward: Pluralistic, Popperian Themes

in the Philosophy of Paul Feyerabend", *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, 14, 2000, pp. 257-66 (Carfax Publishing).

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