

Preface

This volume, the fifth in the series *The Philosophy of Science in a European Perspective*, collects selected articles from presentations delivered at the three events organised in 2012 by the European Science Foundation Research Networking Programme PSE (The Philosophy of Science in a European Perspective): (1) the conference “New directions in the philosophy of science” held on October 17–20 at the Bertinoro Conference Centre of the University of Bologna; (2) the workshop “Causation, dispositions and probabilities in physics and biology” that took place on November 22–24 at the University of Lausanne, and (3) the workshop “Philosophy and the sciences – old visions, new directions” held on November 30–December 1 at the University of Cambridge, on the premises of CRASSH (Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities).

The Bertinoro conference resulted from the synergy of the five teams of researchers belonging to PSE, namely: Team A: “Formal methods” (leader Stephan Hartmann, co-leader Thomas Müller); Team B: “Philosophy of the natural and life sciences” (leader Marcel Weber, co-leader Hanne Andersen); Team C: “Philosophy of the cultural and social sciences” (leader Wenceslao J. Gonzalez, co-leader Amparo Gomez); Team D: “Philosophy of the physical sciences” (leader Dennis Dieks, co-leader Guido Bacciagaluppi); and Team E: “History of the philosophy of science” (leader Thomas Uebel, co-leader Michael Stoeltzner). Each of these teams organised one main session and one junior session, all revolving around the central topic that imprinted the research carried out by PSE in its fifth year of activity, namely “New directions in the philosophy of science”.

The Lausanne workshop originated from a project of Michael Esfeld, member of PSE’s Steering Committee, in close cooperation with the leaders of Teams B and D. The papers read there aimed at investigating possible links between biology and physics in connection with the notions of causality and dispositions, taken in a probabilistic fashion. While such notions play an important role in biology, it is unclear whether the same holds for physics. It turns out that focussing on these notions can shed light on still unexplored relations between these two major fields of research in the natural sciences.

The Cambridge workshop linked the newly-established CamPoS (Cambridge Philosophy of Science) research group to PSE, and was locally organised by Huw Price in collaboration with PSE's chairperson Maria Carla Galavotti. The workshop focussed on the relationship between Cambridge and Vienna in twentieth century philosophy of science, with the hope that this relationship will again come to play a major role in European and world philosophy of science in the twenty-first century. Six mini-symposia, each hosting two speakers, were held at the workshop, plus two junior sessions comprising four papers each.

Since all three events pointed in some way or other to new trends in the philosophy of science, with special emphasis on research carried out in Europe, it was decided to arrange the contributions collected in this volume in five sections, corresponding to the five PSE teams, irrespective of whether they were delivered in Bertinoro, Lausanne or Cambridge. However, it does not seem out of place to recall to which of the three conferences they originally belonged. The names of the authors are listed here in the order in which their contributions appear in this volume. The Bertinoro conference hosted the papers of Thomas Müller, Liesbeth De Mol, Patrick Suppes, Raffaella Campaner, Jeroen Van Bouwel, C. Kenneth Waters, Pierre-Luc Germain, Wolfgang Spohn, Matti Sintonen, Daniel Andler, Tarja Knuuttila, David-Hillel Ruben, Katarzyna Paprzycka, Obdulia Torres González, Chiara Ambrosio, Christopher A. Fuchs, Guido Bacciagaluppi, F.A. Muller, Miklós Rédei, Michał Marczyk and Leszek Wroński, Pablo Acuña, Ronnie Hermens, Petr Švarný, Huw Price, Massimo Ferrari, Thomas Uebel, Matthias Neuber, Uljana Feest, Sean Crawford, Anastasios Brenner, and Cristina Chimisso. The Lausanne workshop hosted Mark Colyvan, Tim Rüz, Jan Faye, Jan Baedke, Max Urchs, Raphael Scholl, Cristian Saborido, Andreas Bartels and Daniel Wohlfarth, Mario Hubert and Roland Poellinger, Claus Beisbart, Radin Dardashti, Luke Glynn, Karim Thébault, Mathias Frisch, Gábor Hofer-Szabó, Dustin Lazarovici, Tomasz Placek, and Dennis Dieks. The Cambridge workshop hosted the papers of Kerry McKenzie, Veli-Pekka Parkkinen, Tim Lewens, Maria Carla Galavotti, Henrik Rydenfelt, and Friedrich Stadler.

This volume ideally represents PSE's point of arrival after five years of activity starting in 2008. The other volumes in the same series are: *The Present Situation in the Philosophy of Science* (proceedings of the conference held in Vienna, 18–20 December 2008), edited by Friedrich Stadler, Dennis Dieks, Wenceslao J. Gonzalez, Stephan Hartmann, Thomas Uebel and Marcel Weber, published in 2010; *Explanation, Prediction, and Confirmation* (proceedings of the workshops held in 2009), edited by Dennis Dieks, Wenceslao J. Gonzalez, Stephan Hartmann, Thomas Uebel and Marcel Weber, published in 2011; *Probabilities, Laws, and Structures* (proceedings of the workshops held in 2010), edited by Dennis Dieks, Wenceslao J. Gonzalez, Stephan Hartmann, Michael Stoeltzner and Marcel Weber, published in 2012; and *New Challenges to Philosophy of Science* (proceedings of the activities held in 2011), edited by Hanne Andersen, Dennis Dieks, Wenceslao J. Gonzalez, Thomas Uebel and Gregory Wheeler, published in 2013.

Having directed the ESF programme PSE from beginning to end, and as the principal editor of this volume, I am proud to say that together with the others

the present volume reflects the vitality and originality of European philosophy of science. It is widely recognised that during the last five years the world scenario of philosophy of science has become more balanced, with a significant number of research groups and important events taking place in Europe. Without a doubt, PSE's activities and publications played a major role in this development. On behalf of the European community of philosophers of science, I wish to express our deep gratitude to the European Science Foundation for having supported our research in this field.

Bologna, Italy

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New Directions in the Philosophy of Science

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