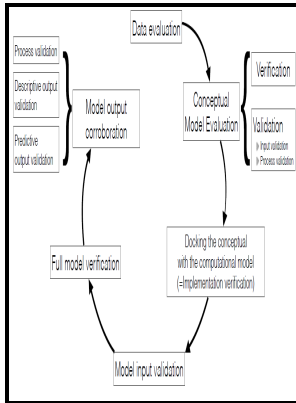


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Fictions in Science: Philosophical Essays on Modeling and Idealization

Indeed, it is also fair to say that much more work could be done in classifying the kinds of purposes to which computer simulations are put and the constraints those purposes place on the structure of their epistemology.

Explanation by Idealized Theories in: Kairos. Journal of Philosophy & Science Volume 20 Issue 1 (2018)

Philosophical Essays in Modeling and Idealizations, London: Routledge, 56—73. Knowing that you do not know is the first step to knowledge.

Idealization XIV: Models in Science

For example, if we study some object because we believe it is sufficiently dynamically similar to a basin of fluid for us to learn about basins of fluid by studying the it, then it provides a simulation of basins of fluid. Simulation for the Social Scientist, Philadelphia, PA: Open University Press. On the flip side, the idea that the existence of a formal similarity between two material entities could mark anything interesting is conceptually confused.

Extending Ourselves: Computational Science, Empiricism, and Scientific Method

Argues that one of the main values of false, or idealized, models is that they can be used as stepping-stones to more realistic models, which in turn can reveal truths about the empirical world. Given that confirmation theory is one of the traditional topics in philosophy of science, it might seem obvious that the latter would have the resources to begin to approach these questions.

Papers

Physicist Bill Unruh noted that in certain fluids, something akin to a black hole would arise if there were regions of the fluid that were moving so fast that waves would have to move faster than the speed of sound something they cannot do in order to escape from them Unruh 1981. Though this method can of course help to make case for the results of a computer simulation, it is by itself inadequate, since simulations are often used precisely because analytic solution is unavailable for regions of solution space that are of interest. What exactly has been accomplished, what kind of

knowledge has been acquired, when an observed social phenomenon is more or less reproduced by an agent-based simulation? Happy agents stay where they are, unhappy agents move to free locations.

Explanatory Fictions

On the first point, Winsberg 2009b replied that it was the simultaneous confluence of all three features that was new to simulation. His fields of interests are: philosophy of history, philosophy of social sciences, political and social philosophy, methodology of history. The point, then, of the definitions of simulation in this section is to try to understand in what sense computer simulation and these sorts of activities are species of the same genus.

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