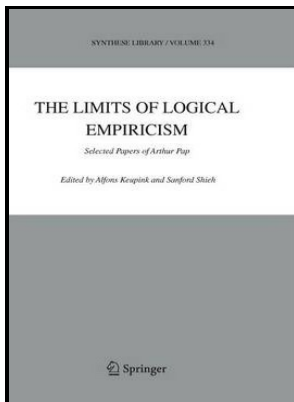


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The Metaphysics of Logical Positivism

Naturalism, the view that good social science is based in the scientific method, became the dominant approach in the social sciences. And here is the crux of the problem: In science, for a theory to be believed, it must make a new prediction — different from those made by previous theories — for an experiment not yet done.

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By then, many had replaced Mach's phenomenalism with 's', whereby science's content is not actual or potential sensations, but instead is entities publicly observable.

The Basic Tenets of Logical Positivism

For instance, there is a general incomprehension of major metaphysical ideas like the deduction of the existence of a simple God. Believers are not, however, able to say precisely what would count as a falsification, which implies that in practice we may not be able to say with certainty whether such beliefs have been falsified. This school conceived of, not so much as an empirical discipline but more as a tool for rigorous logic.

Einstein vs Logical Positivism

Another dubious theory gained popularity as a result of problems surrounding the Big Bang theory, concerning the relatively even distribution of matter observed throughout the visible Universe. Bultmann believed myths had to be reinterpreted, and he did that existentially. It is important to note though that despite the stringent criteria that is explicit in the theory of verification, there are several important modifications made by Ayer that strengthen the theory and avoid radical empiricism.

Einstein vs Logical Positivism

The verifiability criterion thus imposed a standard that was too strong to accommodate the characteristic claims of science and was not justifiable. This soon gave way to a second controversy, waged primarily among academics, concerning the purportedly vicious political outcomes of German Idealism, from Kant through to Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel.

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