

Review of: "In the doing of science, what is the place for naturalistic philosophy? Implications for the teaching of science"

Elisabetta Canetta¹

¹ St Mary's University, Twickenham

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This is an interesting article about the relation between naturalistic philosophy - better known as “naturalism” - and science. The focus is on the place of modern theoretical physics within naturalism. Particular emphasis is given to quantum physics and its relation with philosophy as clearly indicated by the choice's authors to explore the philosophical ideas of two of the fathers of quantum mechanics, namely Werner Heisenberg and Neils Bohr. If choosing Heisenberg and Bohr when discussing philosophy of physics is very common (also because of the many philosophical writings of these two great minds), the choice of exploring Richard Feynmann's ideas concerning naturalism is more unusual and for this reason quite interesting. I also find intriguing the “dialogue” that the authors establish between Feynmann and Ludwig Wittgenstein and how they approaches to naturalism were somehow comparable despite coming from different perspectives (Feynmann from physics and Wittgenstein from philosophy). I also found original the examination of the “fuzzy boundaries” between physics and philosophy from a human and existentialist viewpoint. However, I was expecting the authors to expand further this discussion in order to explore how the human dimension of the physics-philosophy dialogue influences the way physics (and more generally science) is taught in schools and universities. In addition, I would have expected the authors to engage more broadly with the literature available on the tension/dialogue between science and philosophy.