

Michela Massimi

Natural Kinds on Neurath's Boat

In this talk, I present a perspectival realist view on natural kinds. Perspectival realism, as I'd like to think of it, shares with empiricism an ontological commitment to phenomena. But it departs from empiricism both in the way phenomena are characterised and in taking a stance on natural kinds. This stance is akin to Neurath's Boat in being anti-foundationalist and anti-essentialist about kinds. I clarify this Neurathian approach to natural kinds and discuss the naturalism inherent in it.