



En busca de un naturalismo integral repensado

Miguel Espinoza

Département de Philosophie, Université de Strasbourg

miguel.espinoza@orange.fr

<http://miguel.espinoza.pagesperso-orange.fr>.

Man does not come from another world; he is himself a child of nature, of that very nature which the physicists investigate. When we compare his characteristics with those of nature we must, therefore, expect to find resemblances. It is not these resemblances which should surprise us; on the contrary, any traits of man which have apparently no counterparts in nature will by their very existence constitute serious theoretical problems. Wolfgang Köhler

Abstract: In Search of a Comprehensive and Rethought Naturalism. Classical, traditional naturalism, strongly bound to materialism, to physics and chemistry, is indifferent to, or tries to reduce, wide-ranging natural fields such as biological and psychic phenomena, consciousness, symbolism and culture. Thus traditional naturalism has to be rethought to render it more comprehensive and more adequate to the hierarchy of natural systems while satisfying the basic requirement of never introducing extra- or super-natural elements. Now in order to improve the essence and the reach of naturalism, a series of ideas are proposed, and among them we find the following: (I) that both science and metaphysics should be taken seriously since there is no science without metaphysical foundations; (II) that the development of emergentism is essential; (III) the idea that the best explanation of natural systems and their becoming shows the necessity of things, an explanation which takes into account formal and final causes; (IV) the suggestion that, since nothing comes out of nothing, there is an underlying causal mechanism producing the qualitative emergent discontinuities visible in the hierarchy of natural systems. Finally, (V) given that the entire reality is natural and that values are real, values are natural entities.

Key words: Traditional naturalism; Comprehensive naturalism; Metaphysics and natural science; Natural hierarchy; Emergentism; Causality; Explanation; Value.