

講演者 **Otávio Bueno (University of Miami)**

タイトル **Epistemic Structural Realism: Some Troubles**

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Abstract

In this paper we critically discuss some of the central tenets of epistemic structural realism (ESR). As it traditionally appears in the literature, ESR is often characterized by the slogan “structure is all we can know”. For a slightly more informative formulation, two features of the view are highlighted: (i) only the structural aspects of reality can be known (they typically correspond to the theoretical parts of our mature scientific theories), and (ii) there is at best structural preservation through scientific revolutions. Our main goal is to challenge that ESR has been fully and properly articulated, and to this effect we will evaluate critically the adequacy of central concepts and theoretical devices advanced by the epistemic structural realist, in particular, Ramsey sentences, structure, structural continuity, and theoretical knowledge (but we also discuss more general concepts, such as truth and reference, and the problems they face). We argue that ESR faces a number of difficulties. In the end, we suggest that these difficulties are created due to the mixing of realism and structuralism based on Ramsey sentences, and in order to overcome such obstacles, at least one of them must go. Faced with a choice between realism and structuralism, we argue, realism is the least attractive option. (This talk is based on joint work with Jonas R. Becker Arenhardt.)