

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910464464403321
Titolo	Defending realism : ontological and epistemological investigations // edited by Guido Bonino, Greg Jesson, and Javier Cumpa
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Boston : , : De Gruyter, , [2014] ©2014
ISBN	1-61451-665-0 1-61451-930-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (444 p.)
Collana	Eide, , 2198-1841 ; ; volume 7
Disciplina	149/.2
Soggetti	Realism Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Table of Contents -- Foreword -- Two Arguments against Antirealism in Relation to Artefact Kinds / Carrara, Massimiliano / Gaio, Silvia / Soavi, Marzia -- Realism, Tense, and Context Sensitivity / Dolev, Yuval -- Proof of the Existence of Universals -from a Fallibilist / Johansson, Ingvar -- Methodological Cartesianism / Landini, Gregory -- The Transparency Objection against Modal Anti-Realism and the Paradox of Conceivability / Morato, Vittorio -- Temporal Realism and the R-Theory / Oaklander, L. Nathan -- Was Frege a Realist? And, if so, in What Sense? / Wilson, Fred -- Is Exemplification Absurd? A Note on Lowe's Criticism / Cumpa, Javier -- Why Realism Needs Ontology / Gadenne, Volker -- The Impossibility of Philosophical Skepticism / Jesson, Greg -- Metaphysical Realism and Castañeda's Minimal Transcendental Realism / Orilia, Francesco -- Realism and Intentionality / Tegtmeier, Erwin -- Defending Deployment Realism against Alleged Counter examples / Alai, Mario -- Fiction in Science? Exploring the Reality of Theoretical Entities / Barwich, Ann-Sophie -- Does Bell's Theorem Imply Metaphysical Realism? / Bombardi, Ron -- Semantic Antirealism: Last Gasp / Vision, Gerald -- The Reality of Linguistic Norms or Linguistic Rules Rule / Weiss, Bernhard -- On Russell's Robust Sense of Reality / Bonino, Guido -- Austrian Logical Realism? Brentano on States of Affairs / Fréchette, Guillaume --

Sommario/riassunto

The essays in this volume, first presented at an international conference held at the University of Urbino, Italy, in 2011, explore the different senses of realism, arguing both for and against its distinctive theses and considering these senses from a historical point of view. The first sense is the metaphysical thesis that whatever exists does so, and has the properties it has, independently of whether it is the object of a person's thought or perception. The second sense of realism is epistemological, wherein realism claims that, in some cases, it is possible to know the world as it exists in and of itself. A third sense, which has become known as ontological realism, states that universals exist as well as individuals. The essays collected here make new contributions to these fundamental philosophical issues, which have largely defined western analytic philosophy, from Plato and Aristotle to the present day.

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