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Nota di contenuto	1. Understanding, Explaining and Knowing -- Part 1: Knowledge as classification, judgment, mensuration -- 2. Problems of Mensuration and Experimentation -- 3. Problems of Measurement and Meaning in Biology -- 4. Psychology Cannot Quantify Its Research, do Experiments, or be Based Upon Behaviorism -- 5. Taking the Measure of Functional Things -- 6. Statistics Without Measurement -- 7. Economic Calculation of Value Is Not Measurement, not Apriori, and Its Study Is Not Experimental -- Part 2: What can be known, and what is real -- 8. Structural Realism and Theoretical Reference -- 9. The Mental and the Physical Still Pose Insuperable Problems -- Part 3: There are inescapable dualisms -- 10. Complementarity in Science, Life and Knowledge -- 11. Complementarities of physicality and functionality

yield unavoidable dualisms -- Part 4: Complementarity and ambiguity -- 12. Understanding Complex Phenomena -- 13. The Resolution of Surface and Deep Structure Ambiguity -- Part 5: The corruption of knowledge: Politics and the deflection of science -- 14. Political Prescription of Behavior Ignores Epistemic Constraints -- Part 6: Appendix: The Abject Failure of Traditional Philosophy to Understand Epistemology -- 15. Induction is an insuperable problem for traditional philosophy -- 16. Rhetoric and Logic in Inference and Expectation -- 17. Rationality in an evolutionary epistemology.

Sommario/riassunto

“Weimer is a polymath. His writings range over disparate domains including induction, psychology, epistemology, economics, and mensuration theory. This volume should be essential reading for anyone concerned about the nature of the sciences.” – Neil P. Young, Clinical and Experimental psychologist. “Knowing the mind is infinitely more challenging than knowing the objects studied by the physical sciences. Weimer's book rises to the challenge, thoroughly reviewing the strengths and shortcomings of both famous and forgotten thinkers such as Bühler, Hayek, Popper, and von Neumann to identify key issues for an evolutionary epistemology.” – John A. Johnson, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, Penn State University This book argues for evolutionary epistemology and distinguishing functionality from physicality in the social sciences. It explores the implications for this approach to understanding in biology, economics, psychology and political science. Presenting a comprehensive overview of philosophical topics in the social sciences, the book emphasizes how all human cognition and behavior is characterized by functionality and complexity, and thus cannot be explained by the point predictions and exact laws found in the physical sciences. Realms of functional complexity – such as the market order in economics, the social rules of conduct, and the human CNS – require a focus on explanations of the principles involved rather than predicting exact outcomes. This requires study of the historical context to understand behavior and cognition. This approach notes that functional complexity is central to classical liberal ideas such as division of labour and knowledge, and how this is a far more powerful and adequate account of social organization than central planning. Through comparison of these approaches, as well as its interdisciplinary scope, this book will interest both academics and students in philosophy, biology, economics, psychology and all other social sciences. Walter B. Weimer is Emeritus Professor of Psychology and Philosophy at the Pennsylvania State University, USA. His other books in the Palgrave Studies in Classical Liberalism series are the two volumes of Retrieving Liberalism from Rationalist Constructivism. .
