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Titolo Experience and Beyond : The Outline of A Darwinian Metaphysics / / by

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Disciplina 120

Soggetti Epistemology

Philosophy of nature Biology—Philosophy Philosophy of Nature Philosophy of Biology

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

Nota di contenuto Preface and Introduction -- 1 Evolutionary Naturalism -- The manifest

Evolutionary epistemology -- 2 Evolution and Human Cognition -- The Darwinian legacy. Setting the legacy straight -- A fallacy of naturalization -- Intention and innate dispositions -- 3 Sensation, Perception, and Observation -- Perception as belief acquisition -- From perception to observation -- Theory-ladenness -- Instrumental observation -- Observability -- 4 Theory and Reality -- Forms of realism -- Conceptual frameworks and external commitments -- Theory realism -- The success argument -- Constructive empiricism -- Structural realism -- The failure of representationalism -- 5 Truth, Language, and Objectivity -- What is truth? -- Truth and meaning -- Non-realism concerning Truth -- A naturalized notion of truth -- Semantics and ontology -- 6 Abstraction and Reification -- Common sense and externality -- What makes an entity abstract? -- Abstract

image -- The scientific image -- Kant's metaphysical dualism --

Space, Time, and Space-time -- The existence of Space -- The

objects versus abstracted concepts -- Why did abstracted concepts evolve? -- 7 In Defence of Nominalism -- Concrete, artificial, and nominal particulars -- Particulars and universals -- Conceptualism -- 8

existence of Time -- Space-time substantivalism -- Space-time relationism -- Space-time as an abstracted concept -- Are space and time invented or discovered? -- 9 Causality and Counterfactuality -- The concept -- Regularity -- Modality -- 10 Human Evolution and Mathematical Physics -- Mathematics and representational knowledge -- Mathematics – the language of quantities -- Possible worlds, many worlds and multiverses -- The Copenhagen interpretation: a non-representational view -- 11 Conclusion -- Bibliography.

## Sommario/riassunto

This book presents a persuasive argument in favour of evolutionary naturalism and outlines what such a stance means for our capacity of observation and understanding reality. The author discusses how our capacity of knowledge is adapted to handle sensory information about the environment in the light of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. The implication of this is that much of our thinking in science and philosophy that goes beyond our immediate experience rests on abstractions and hypostatization. This book rejects the possibility of having any knowledge of reality as it is in itself, while not denying that our capacity of conceptual abstractions is of great benefit for our survival. .