

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910815910903321
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
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.
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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.

2. Record Nr.

UNINA9910895830103321

Titolo

Food and nutrition bulletin

Pubbl/distr/stampa

[Tokyo], : United Nations University
[London], : Sage Publications

ISSN

1564-8265

Descrizione fisica

1 online resource

Disciplina

641.3/05

Soggetti

Food
Nutrition
Agriculture
Dietary Proteins
Food Supply
Nutritional Physiological Phenomena
world
food policy
food
Regimes pauvres en proteines
Aliments - Approvisionnement
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Aliments
farming (activity or system)
44.21 nutrition

Publications periodiques

Voeding

Levensmiddelen

Fulltext

Periodicals.

periodicals.

Periodiques.

Lingua di pubblicazione

Inglese

Formato

Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico

Periodico

Note generali

Refereed/Peer-reviewed

Title from caption (publisher's Web site, viewed February 13, 2006).
