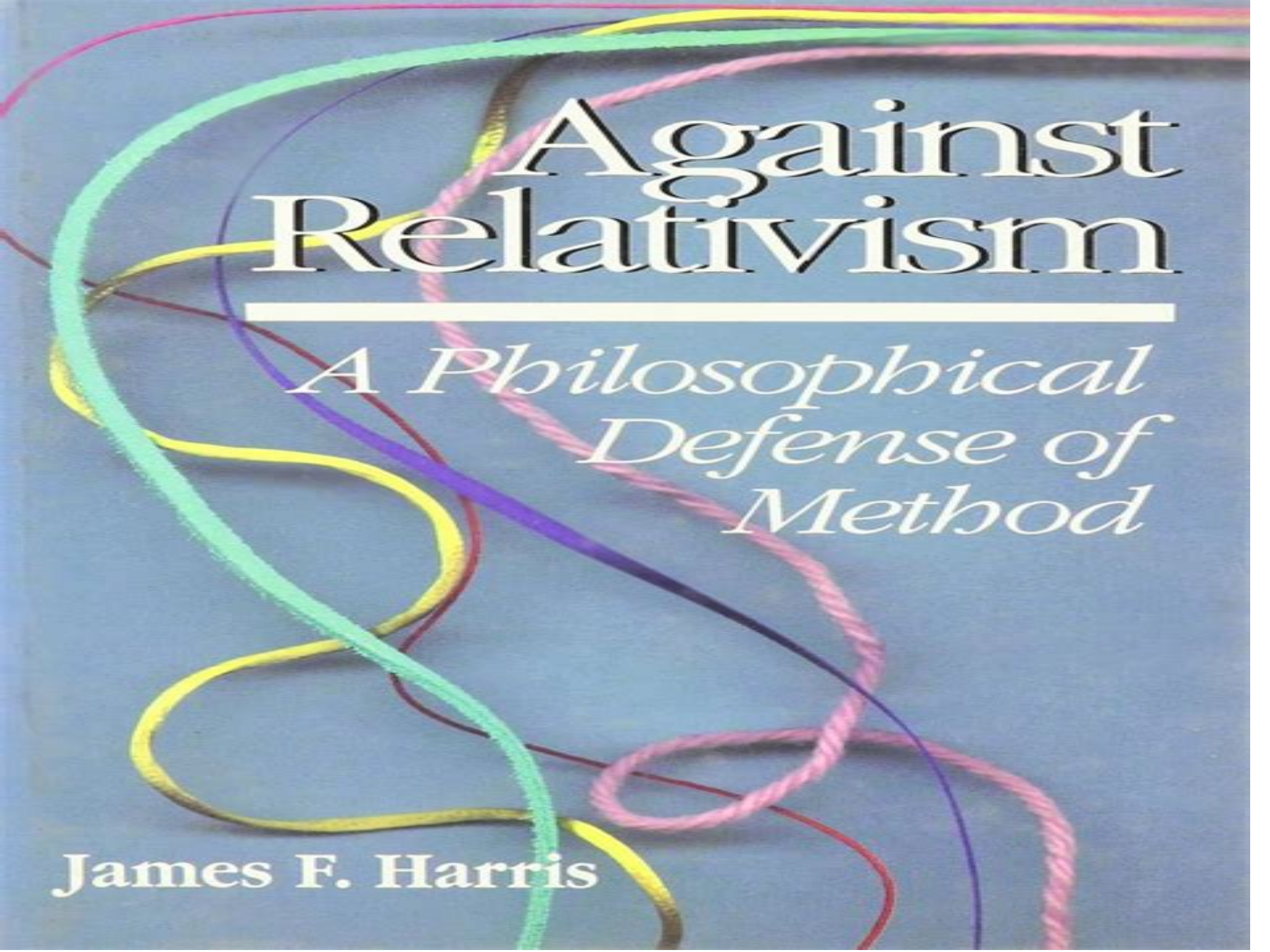


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Against Relativism

*A Philosophical
Defense of
Method*

James F. Harris

Against Relativism A Philosophical Defense Of Method

Gale Heide



Against Relativism A Philosophical Defense Of Method:

Against Relativism James Franklin Harris, 1992 Recent decades have witnessed the extraordinary growth of radical relativism a doctrine which now dominates the entire culture from popular music to journalism and from religion to school curricula According to the radical relativist creed any proposition can be true or false in relation to a chosen framework the evaluation of fundamental theories or paradigms is beyond argument there are no universal standards of rationality and methodologically Anything goes As James Harris explains in *Against Relativism* the new relativism undoes the work of the Enlightenment and inevitably leads to the conclusion that Galileo was wrong to insist that the Earth indeed moves Succor for relativism has come from many philosophical schools both Analytic and Continental Among the sources of the new relativism are the collapse of Logical Positivism and the shift within anthropology from a linear evolutionary model to numerous models for understanding human culture In this detailed critique Professor Harris has selected the strongest and most plausible arguments for relativism within contemporary academic philosophy He turns the techniques of relativism against relativism itself showing that it is ultimately self refuting or otherwise ineffectual He demonstrates that Quine s rejection of the analytic synthetic distinction appeals to the very analytic truths Quine tries to dispel that Kuhn s celebrated account of paradigms must be either self refuting or unintelligible that Rorty cannot avoid presupposing the epistemological principles he attacks and that although feminist criticisms of science exert a welcome corrective attempts to develop a distinctively feminist science are misconceived and unhelpful to feminism In all these discussions the author explains the arguments he is criticizing for the benefit of the non specialist reader so that this work can serve as a partisan but fair introduction to some of the most important of present day philosophy

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Contrasts and contests about philosophy Mogobe Ramose,2018-04-19 The sheer variety of socio political events and technological advancements which affect modern society and the speed and intensity at which these events occur around the world delivers change known as epistemic and social transformation Within this context the question of justice for all is a poignant one It is a cognitive revolution challenging humankind to consider whether or not the already contested meaning of philosophy can remain unchanged The contributions to Contrasts and contests about philosophy address this challenge from a variety of different and even contending perspectives This book was originally published as a special issue of the South African Journal of Philosophy

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Beyond Poststructuralism Wendell V. Harris,2010-11-01

Realities and Relationships Kenneth J. Gergen,2009-06-01 Recent attempts to challenge the primacy of reason and its realization in foundationalist accounts of knowledge and cognitive formulations of human action have focused on processes of discourse Drawing from social and literary accounts of discourse Kenneth Gergen considers these challenges to empiricism under the banner of social construction His aim is to outline the major elements of a social constructionist perspective to illustrate its potential and to initiate debate on the future of constructionist pursuits in the human sciences generally and psychology in particular

God and the Nature of Time Garrett J. DeWeese,2017-03-02 Is God temporal in time or atemporal outside of time Garrett DeWeese begins with

contemporary metaphysics and physics developing a causal account of dynamic time Drawing on biblical material as well as discussions of divine temporality in medieval and contemporary philosophical theology DeWeese concludes that God is temporal but not in physical time as we measure it Interacting with issues in the history of philosophy contemporary philosophy of science and philosophy of religion this book offers students a thorough introduction to the key issues and key figures in historical and contemporary work on the philosophy of time and time in theology System and Story Gale Heide, 2009-01-01 System and Story is intended to develop a means for bridging the gap between critics of system and those who may find value in doing systematics from a Biblically oriented context Narrative theologians have rightly identified and critiqued the development of system in academic theology Unfortunately they have not identified the ways in which systematic elements have always played a role in theological knowledge This study demonstrates the inherent systematic tendencies that still exist in narrative approaches to theology while at the same time acknowledging the appropriateness of aspects of the narrative critique of system The reaction against Enlightenment modernism is examined from the perspective of the heightened role of system in religious epistemology The work of Stanley Hauerwas serves to carry much of the conversation regarding the critique of system and a narrative alternative as it is discovered in communal formation After summarizing Hauerwas theology if such a thing is possible the final chapters explore the ecclesiological concerns of narrative theologians according to a more systematic rendering of pneumatology A Biblical rendering of pneumatology from the perspective of the Spirit's role in ecclesiology allows for a modest i e pre modern systematic presentation commensurate with narrative communal formation Thus the narrative attempt to once again do theology for the church is seen as compatible with a Scriptural i e modestly systematic theology of the Spirit Debussy's Ibéria Matthew Brown, 2003 For well over a century musicologists have been fascinated by composers manuscripts and by the insights they might reveal about the nature of musical composition This book suggests ways in which Debussy's sketches and drafts may be used to explain how he composed one of his last great symphonic scores Ibéria from Images for orchestra 1903 Part 1 shows how we might understand the process of musical composition as a form of expert problem solving it describes the compositional history of the work the various intentional goals and historical constraints that guided Debussy's thinking and some of the technical problems Debussy faced while composing this remarkable score Part 2 reconstructs the genesis of each of the three movements in turn **Entangling Forms** Floyd Merrell, 2010-09-27 The volume draws from Charles S Peirce's pragmatic philosophy as well as from diverse areas in contemporary arts and sciences and certain facets of Buddhist philosophy especially regarding notions of interconnectedness self organization and co participation of the knowing subject with her inner world her socio cultural world and her physical environment Contradictory complementary and coalescence are also fundamental watchwords in addition to entanglement Contradictory since conflicts clashes and inconsistencies there will always be in spite attempts to resolve them Complementarity since poles of opposition can at least provisionally be resolved

by mediation and moderation however vaguely and ambiguously such that consonance might emerge from dissonance balance from imbalance and accord from discord And coalescence since the union of disparities is an ongoing and always incomplete process it is never fixed product These concepts along with the key word entanglement place Peirce in a new light giving rise to new questions and possible responses from readers who are searching for alternate means of understanding in our increasingly complex rapidly globalizing world

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