Some basics of philosophy and the philosophy of science

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Why philosophy / philosophy of science?

May seem unworldy etc.

1. But philosophical questions show up sooner or later for everyone with an inquisitive mind and an interest in the growth of knowledge.

2. If not spontaneously in yourself, then in what some friend, lecturer or article has to say. You might be frustrated - not understand or more positively have your curiosity awakened.

3) Clarity concerning philosophy of science is required for better research - to not make elementary and unnecessary mistakes and not to get stuck in artificial tracks.

4) Philosophical thoughts have a beauty and grandeur that can free your own thinking and simultaneously lead to an open and critical mind.

Many strange terms and concepts - can seem irrelevant

But

They are needed to help your thinking to retain abstract concepts.

So don't give up.

Try to see both the forest and the trees.

Four main questions of Philosopy

1. What exists?
   Ontology (metaphysics)
2. What is knowledge and how do we gain knowledge?
   Epistemology
3. What is right and good? Ethics
4. What is beautiful? Esthetics

1. Ontology (Metaphysics) (Eschatology)

What does it mean to exist?
- occur in the world
- occur in space-time
- occur in someone's thinking

Ontology classically
- tells us what the fundamental categories of reality are
- tells us about basic conceptual dimensions in reality

Now - concept sometimes diluted

A traditional starting point

Question 1.

Does anything exist independently of my (our) experience of the world?

1. Yes - Realism

2. No - Idealism

A. Realism (types)

1. **Naive Realism**

    G. E. Moore

    "Here is a hand"

    Samuel Johnson

    "kick a stone"

2.   Sophisticated Realism
Locke, Descartes

(i) primary qualities:
time, space, form, mass, energy,
 extension, movement, rest
(ii) **secondary qualities:**
colors, experienced sounds,
 smells, taste, heat, cold
(iii) tertiary qualities:
values; good, bad, beautiful, ugly

Sophisticated realism
- the most common view in science

3. **Critical realism** - Kant

All qualities (including the primary ones) come to us through our experience (thoughts). Nothing we know about the world is independent of us.

We only know something about the "phenomena in the world" but nothing about "the-things-in-themselves" . The only thing we can syn about "the-things-in-themselves" is that they exist.

4.   Conceptual realism - Plato

Concepts (ideas) have a "real existence" independently of us.

- They are the only things that are really real (outside of time and space).

B. Idealism

1. Phenomenalism

Berkeley, Hume

Berkeley: "things become larger as you get close to them"

- The only things that exist are phenomena (Kant - "the-thing-in-itself")

- The epistemic basis of everything is

Impressions (Hume) or

Sense data (Russell, Carnap)

2. Idealism

Fichte, Schelling, Hegel - German romanticism

Not only sense data exist, but also our interpretations of them. Emotions, attitudes etc. are also real.

Schopenhauer - "Die Welt als Wille und Vorstellung"

3. Solipsism

The only things that exist are my experiences

Max Stirner - "Der Einzige und sein Eigentum"

How many basic categories of reality are there?

A. Monism (one)

   (i) Naive realism

   (ii) Materialism (Vulgar
         Marxism) Democritos

   (iii) Idealism, phenomenalism

   (iv) Neutral monism (Russell)

   (v) Informational monism
         (physics & semantics)

B. Dualism (two)

(i) Sophisticated realism

(ii) Critical realism

(iii) Dialectical materialism

C. Pluralism (many)

(i) Leibniz monadology

(ii) Aspectualism

Spinoza (Reality is God) has infinitely many attributes. We only know two of them (thinking and extension)

Question 3

What is the Nature of the basic categories of reality?

1.   Physical, material (Democritos, Marx)
2. Spiritual, mental (Hegel, Berkeley)
3. Abstract (Plato, Popper)
4. Divine (Spinoza, Hegel)
5. Try to avoid position

Try to put the external world in brackets - only analyze what we experience

- Husserl phenomenology

- Russel Neutral monism

Categories 1 and 2 the most common.

What is the Nature of the relatiohship between Matter and Spirit ?

1. Identity (monism)

2. Substance with corresponding properties (aspectualism) or parallel theory (Spinoza)

3. Epiphenomenalism (one-way causality)

4. Interactionism (two-way causality (psychosomatics)

5. Occasionalism (mediated by God on occasions when God needs to mediate)

6. Preestablished harmony between soul-matter monads (Leibniz)

Question 5

What kind of principles govern the world (connect phenomena with each other)?

A. Indeterminism

(i)   Chaos,

(ii) Statistical correlations

B. Determinism

Aristotles' four causes:

- Causal (efficient); (most of science)

- Teleological (final; goal, purpose) Aristotle, Hegel

- Material

- Formal (Sheldrake)

B. Determinism cont. Aristotle´s four types of cause

Most scientists have rejected cause type (ii) - (iii), since the 16:th century.

And only accepted

Efficient cause

Which has often been analyzed as **necessary and/or sufficient conditions** and sometimes as chains or systems of causes

David Hume causality = contiguity in space & time

Another type of (deterministic)connection

(v) Convention

Question 6

Are there basic ontological categories independently of the question of what constitutes their nature?

1. **Entities** (concrete things-abstract entities)
2. **Properties** (primary, secondary, tertiary
3. **Relations** (No. of arguments)
4. **Processes**
5. **States** (simple, complex
6. **Events** (simple, complex)
7. **Courses of events**

Can these categories be part of a realist, idealist ontology?

How do they fit into a monist, dualist or pluralist ontology?

Examples

Entity:	Bill, Betty	**State:**	Bill is strong
Property:	Strong	**Event:**	Betty jumped
Relation:	Kinder than		
Process:	runs	**Course of events:**	Betty went to town

Linguistic Methods
Philosophy of science Step 1:
Literature that can be used:

- **Encyclopedia of Philosophy**
  Collier MacMillan
- **Filosofilexikonet, Forum**
- **Filosofisk Uppslagsbok**
  Konrad Marc-Wogau
- **Google/Wikipedia:**
- **Entries:**
- **- Dictionary of Philosophy**
- **- Glossary**
- **- Encyclopedia**

[Philosophical Dictionary](...)**...** Eric Weisstein's World of Scientific Biography (WSB), Chris Eliasmith's **Dictionary of Philosophy** of Mind (DPM), The Catholic Encyclopedia (CE), www.philosophypages.com/dy/ - 9k

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