

P.E.Meehl: Philosophical Psychology Seminar

Lecture 5 (of 12) 02/02/1989

Nomological net. Nodes=entities, strands= relations between entities.

Proper subset "operationally" linked.

Levels of verisimilitude (I-X): Examples. Kinds of entities?

Connections, Derivatives? Function forms? Parameters?

Verisimilitude=Similitude to Omniscient Jones's Theory

Lakatosian defense of core. Basic Formula  $T \cdot A_T \cdot C_P \cdot A_I \cdot C_n \rightarrow (O_1 \supset O_2)$

Defend core despite falsifiers, if theory already has money in the bank,  
has a good track record.

Gets credit by risky predictions, "damn strange coincidences"

So  $(O_1 \supset O_2)$  had low prior, absent theory

Avagadro Number & molecular reality

X-ray diffraction: Which is theory, which auxiliary?

Two mistakes on significance testing

Weak use, think theory strongly supported by refuting  $H_0$

Strong use, think falsified theory must be abandoned pronto.

Lakatos' "instant rationality"

Auxiliaries example: Personality theory experiment about anxiety,  
introversion, TAT affiliation

Fisher on "controlling all variables." Lady tea taster