



Springer

1st
edition1st ed. 2020, VIII, 171 p. 1
illus.**Printed book**

Hardcover

Printed book

Hardcover

ISBN 978-3-030-58046-9

£ 69,99 | CHF 94,50 | 79,99 € |

87,99 € (A) | 85,59 € (D)

Available

Discount group

Science (SC)

Product category

Monograph

Series

Synthese Library

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ISBN 978-3-030-58049-0

Philosophy : Philosophy of Science

Mizrahi, Moti

The Relativity of Theory

Key Positions and Arguments in the Contemporary Scientific Realism /Antirealism Debate

- Introduces the key arguments and positions in the scientific realism /antirealism debate
- Examines the key arguments for and against scientific realism in a rigorous manner
- Develops a position that provides a middle-ground between scientific realism and antirealism

This book offers a close and rigorous examination of the arguments for and against scientific realism and introduces key positions in the scientific realism/antirealism debate, which is one of the central debates in contemporary philosophy of science. On the one hand, scientific realists argue that we have good reasons to believe that our best scientific theories are approximately true because, if they were not even approximately true, they would not be able to explain and predict natural phenomena with such impressive accuracy. On the other hand, antirealists argue that the success of science does not warrant belief in the approximate truth of our best scientific theories. This is because the history of science is a graveyard of theories that were once successful but were later discarded. The author eventually settles on a middle-ground position between scientific realism and antirealism called "relative realism".

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