



ISSN 1782-348X ■ Volume 11 Number 1 ■ November 2015

CONSTRUCTIVIST FOUNDATIONS

An interdisciplinary journal ■ www.univie.ac.at/constructivism/journal

Special Issue

Composing Conferences

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CONSTRUCTIVIST FOUNDATIONS IS AN INTERNATIONAL PEER-REVIEWED ACADEMIC E-JOURNAL

listed in the AHCI. It is dedicated to constructivist issues raised by philosophy as well as the natural, human, and applied sciences. The journal publishes original scholarly work in all areas of constructivist approaches, in particular

- radical constructivism
- enaction & enactive cognitive science
- second-order cybernetics
- biology of cognition & the theory of autopoiesis
- non-dualizing philosophy
- neurophenomenology
- first-person research.

Constructivist Foundations is INDEXED in the Science Citation Index (Arts & Humanities Citation Index and Current Contents/Arts & Humanities), European Reference Index for the Humanities (ERIH), in PhilPapers, Google Scholar, Scopus, EBSCO's Education Research Complete and The Philosopher's Index.

AIMS AND SCOPE

CONSTRUCTIVIST APPROACHES support the idea that mental structures such as cognition and perception are actively built by one's mind rather than passively acquired.

However, constructivist approaches vary in function of how much influence they attribute to constructions. Some assume that constructed mental structures gradually adapt to the structures of the real world. Others seek to avoid this dualism. Either they skeptically reject that the structures of the real world can be compared with mental ones, or they embrace a phenomenological perspective that considers cognition as the grouping of experiential complexes. Some regard perceived regularities as invariants of inborn cognitive operators.

Constructivist approaches can be said to differ also with respect to whether constructs are considered to populate the rational-linguistic, the biological-bodily, or the social realm.

SUBMISSIONS

Send all material to ariegler/at/vub.ac.be

Constructivist Foundations publishes:

- scholarly papers dealing with the conceptual analysis of constructivist concepts;
- research papers covering experiments in constructivism;
- papers reporting on synthetic formal or computational models relevant for constructivist approaches;
- applications of constructivist concepts;
- survey articles;
- editorial material such as opinions, perspectives, essays written by senior scholars, and open peer commentaries;
- book reviews.

SUBMISSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO EDITORIAL AND DOUBLE-BLIND PEER-REVIEWING.

COMMON DENOMINATORS

The common denominatorS of constructivist approaches can be summarized as follows.

- Constructivist approaches question the Cartesian separation between "objective world" and subjective experience.
- They demand the inclusion of the observer in scientific explanations.
- No representationalism: knowledge is a system-related cognitive process rather than a mapping of an objective world onto subjective cognitive structures.
- According to constructivist approaches, it is futile to claim that knowledge approaches reality; reality is brought forth by the subject rather than passively received.
- Constructivist approaches entertain an agnostic relationship with reality, which is considered beyond our cognitive horizon; any reference to it should be refrained from.
- Therefore, the focus of research moves from the world that consists of matter to the world that consists of what matters.
- Constructivist approaches focus on self-referential and organizationally closed systems; such systems strive for control over their inputs rather than their outputs.
- With regard to scientific explanations, constructivist approaches favor a process-oriented approach rather than a substance-based perspective, e.g., living systems are defined by processes whereby they constitute and maintain their own organization.
- Constructivist approaches emphasize the "individual as personal scientist" approach; sociality is defined as adapting within the framework of social interaction.
- Finally, they ask for a less dogmatic approach to science in order to generate the flexibility that is needed to cope with today's scientific frontier.

PUBLISHER

Alexander Riegler (editor-in-chief)

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Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Krijgskundestraat 33

1160 Brussels, Belgium

<http://www.univie.ac.at/constructivism/journal>

<http://www.constructivistfoundations.info>

ISSN 1782-348X

PHYSICAL WEB SERVER

University of Vienna, Austria

GRAPHICAL CONCEPT

aspectdesign, Brussels, <http://www.aspectdesign.be>

COVER ART OF CURRENT ISSUE

«Cicatrices»

© Nicolas Tomaro, 2012

Acrylic painting digitally reworked, 55 x 46 cm

Courtesy of the artist

Uitgegeven met
de steun van de
Universitaire Stichting
van België

