
Summaries

Albert's Münchhausen Trilemma: a critique

by H. M. Jolles

Prof. Hans Albert has stated that the quest for the foundation of (scientific) statements, according to classical epistemological principles, leads to either one of three untenable solutions: (a) an infinite regress; (b) a logical circle; (c) a breakdown of procedure through reference to some sort of belief (as f.i. intuition, immediate evidence, etc.) or dogma. Albert's proposal to eliminate this trilemma is to accept that all certainties in knowledge are self-produced and therefore valueless with respect to the constitution of reality. Instead of asking for certainty in knowledge one should through procedures of looking for alternative theories and through continuing criticism, proceed towards statements with a reasonable degree of acceptability.

The article tries (a) to bring some doubt as to whether the situation described is one of a real trilemma; (b) to question the idea, that critical rationalism in Albert's sense brings the solution to this trilemma. Albert's struggle against dogmatic immunisation of statements may be supported, but this does not wholly destroy the position of some philosophers of commitment (Polanyi, Bartley) or even the defenders of an indefinite regress in a somewhat modified Kantian sense. Here Albert's 'critical' alternative should not be considered as a dogma itself; and the problem of foundation should not be solved by elimination, as the problems to be considered are not of an absolute but of a relative nature.

The position of women on the labor market: new roads for research

by R. Hommes, A. de Jong-van der Poel, N. Schoemaker

Dutch sociologists studying the position of women on the labor market focused their primary research efforts on the participation of married women in the labor force. The rise of the emancipation movement and the general deterioration of labor market conditions now focus attention to problems of social equality such as pay differences, promotion opportunities and the occupational distribution of men and women. To analyse the determination of social inequality several economic theories have been developed. The implications of these theories for research into the position of women are briefly summarized. On the basis of the inventarisation of research findings, available statistics and hypotheses derived from labor market theories, research questions are formulated. A broader theoretical approach is advocated and attention is directed to the importance of institutional phenomena and the influence of the demand side for the labor market position of women.

Verbal Modelling

by H. Koppelaar, B. van Koningsveld en H. Weijenburg

A new kind of modelling, the linguistic or verbal model has been explored in an organization theory. This theory of organization size and member participation, developed by Indik in 1965, is explicated and formalized in order to facilitate a computersimulation based upon the theory of deductive verbal models.