

not strictly adhered to at present. The variables are too complex and too numerous to be easily subsumed under a theory adequate to produce more than fragmentary confirmations or disconfirmations. In the absence of an ability to know what variables are significant, and to what extent, prior prediction concerning lines of development becomes at least hazardous, if not mere speculation. Particularly is this so when, as in psychoanalysis, we are not dealing with discrete variables such as certain physical attributes. Lacking the ability to make predictions, and ideally "point predictions," we lack a means to a tight theory which can abandon many of its unusable components as well as its disconfirmed parts while retaining enough openness not to foreclose useful concepts.

Ricoeur's treatment of these issues relies heavily on the English philosophers of language and their style of exegesis. This is most intriguing to me, yet also most disappointing. Ricoeur makes almost no mention of the philosophers who appear to be exerting the most groundbreaking and compelling influence these days in the philosophy of science. Especially is this so with regard to the structure of scientific theories. Over the past decades there has been monumental work on this subject, but it is given only nodding acknowledgment in this book. Such philosophers as Popper (mentioned once, on p. 363), Herbert Feigl (mentioned in one footnote), and Stephen Toulmin (pp. 359 and 363 and one footnote) are examples. The work of Imre Lakatos, Paul Feyerabend, and the late Arthur Pap receives no mention whatsoever. One waits disappointingly and in vain for Ricoeur to deal with the insights of these men into the nature of scientific theory, explanation, and nomological networks.

I have no personal acquaintance with today's scene in Paris in the philosophy of science, but I think it fair to presume that the work of the philosophers mentioned cannot have been ignored there. I can only speculate that these neglected "philosophies" do not appeal to the author, with his predilection for the analysis of language and the philosophers of meaning. To appraise Ricoeur's book requires an appraisal of the philosophy of "ordinary language" as well as of his attempt at a synthesis of dialectic philosophy based on his reading of Freud. This is all highly stimulating, and provides exposure to

a perspective on Freud and psychoanalysis I have not had before. I was left wishing for an opportunity to sit down with Ricoeur and personally explore many of the issues he has raised in his book and also those raised in this review.

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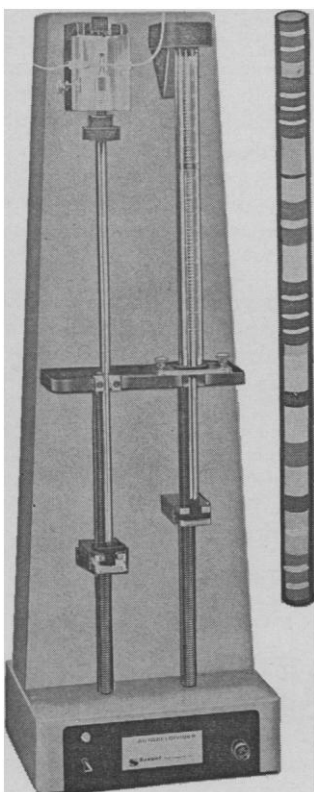
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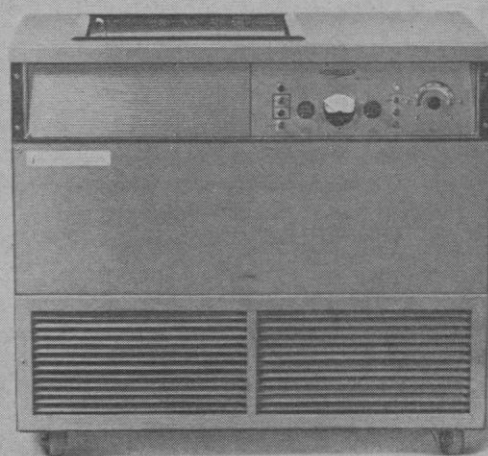
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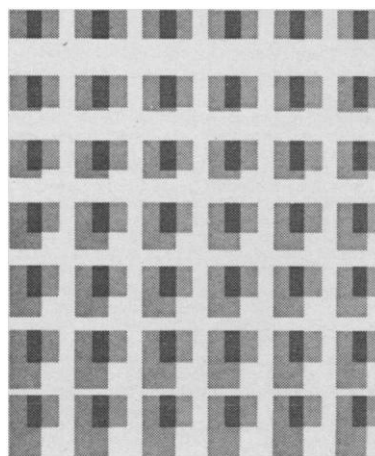
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Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen The Entropy Law and the Economic Process



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