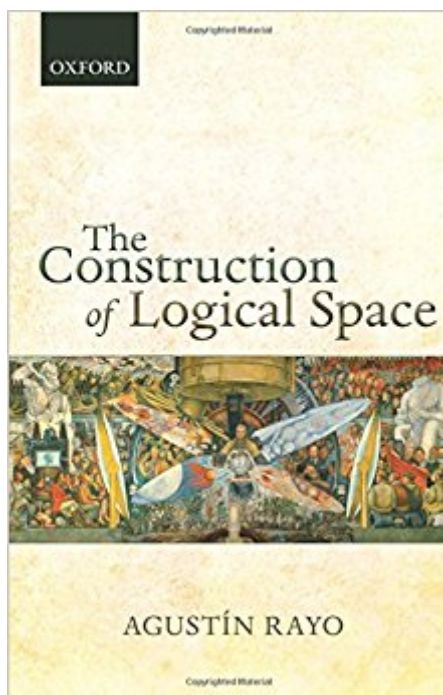


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The Construction Of Logical Space



Synopsis

Our conception of logical space is the set of distinctions we use to navigate the world. In *The Construction of Logical Space* Agustin Rayo defends the idea that one's conception of logical space is shaped by one's acceptance or rejection of 'just is'-statements: statements like 'to be composed of water just is to be composed of H₂O', or 'for the number of the dinosaurs to be zero just is for there to be no dinosaurs'. The resulting picture is used to articulate a conception of metaphysical possibility that does not depend on a reduction of the modal to the non-modal, and to develop a trivialist philosophy of mathematics, according to which the truths of pure mathematics have trivial truth-conditions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"...Rayo's overall picture is alluring and brings plenty of interesting new material to the table..." --
Mind

Agustin Rayo, Massachusetts Institute of TechnologyAgustin Rayo was born in Mexico City. He received his PhD in from MIT in 2001, and joined the faculty in 2005, after spending time at the University of St Andrews and the University of California at San Diego. His research lies at the intersection of the philosophy of logic and the philosophy of language.

This is a wonderfully ambitious new work in philosophy. It includes:(1) An extended defence of

"trivialism" - an account of the metaphysics of mathematics that Rayo introduced in his contribution to *New Waves in Philosophy of Mathematics*.(2) A new account of the epistemology of mathematics. To cut a long story short, the author defends the view (associated with the logical empiricists) that the theorems of pure mathematics are knowable *a priori* because they are entailed by definitions.(3) A new account of the epistemology of (metaphysical) modality.(4) A new defence of the (Stalnakerian) claim that the objects of propositional attitudes are sets of possible worlds.(5) A sustained attack on what the author calls "metaphysicalism" - very roughly, this is the Tractarian thesis that a true sentence must be isomorphic to a fact, which it represents. What's amazing is that Rayo fits all of this into only about 200 pages! This book is required reading for anyone in metaphysics/epistemology.

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