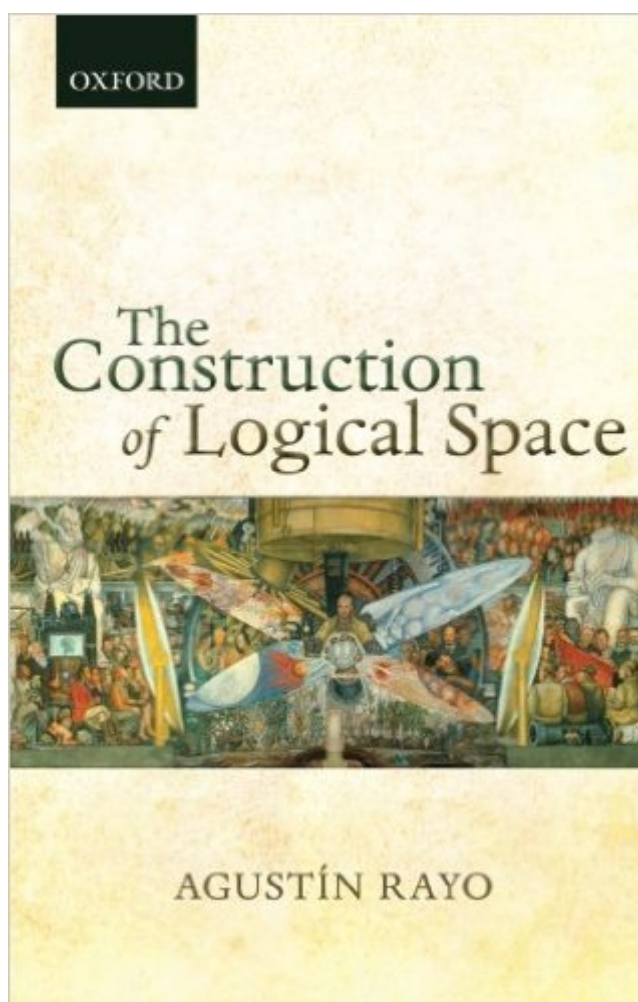


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The Construction Of Logical Space



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

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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