

Introduction

Xavier de Donato-Rodríguez

BIBLID [0495-4548 (2009) 24: 65; pp. 133]

Nelson Goodman (1906-1998) has been one of the most important philosophers of the 20th Century. From *The Structure of Appearance to Reconceptions in Philosophy and Other Arts and Sciences* (written with C.Z. Elgin), his work has been proved to be very influential in logic, epistemology, philosophy of language, philosophy of science and aesthetics. This issue is a collection of five papers made in his honour, having to do with different aspects of his philosophy and showing the relevance of his work for the current philosophical discussion.

Construction and reduction are topics which Goodman deals with in his work. They are intimately related. Strictly speaking, Goodman was not a reductionist, he was rather skeptical about the possibility of a strict reduction in science or elsewhere, not surely about its utility. The notion of extensional isomorphism was considered by him a more interesting and powerful tool. It plays a crucial role in his constructional programme. In the first article of the issue, "Construction and Cognition", Elgin sets out the reasons why Goodman was not a reductionist (at least in the strict sense of the word) and shows the relevance of his constructional systems as tools of enquiry. She eloquently articulates the main lines of Goodman's view on science and cognition. The following three papers have to do with Goodman's logical work and, more particularly, with his nominalistic project. It has been argued that the concept of logical consequence cannot be really explicated in nominalistic terms, because any acceptable explication of the concept has to make use of abstract objects. In their paper "Logical Consequence for Nominalists", Rossberg and Cohnitz argue in favor of a characterization of logical consequence in inferentialist terms and they do it in a way that can find an adequate nominalistic explication (they use Goodman and Quine's ideas in "Steps towards a Constructive Nominalism"). On the other hand, in his paper "Goodman's extensional isomorphism and syntactical interpretations", Polanski tries to provide a model-theoretic explication of the concept of extensional isomorphism, a concept Goodman introduced in *The Structure of Appearance* in order to serve as a surrogate for the notion of explicit definability, a condition that reveals to be too strong for certain philosophical purposes and, particularly, for constructional systems. Niebergall's contribution to the issue is an investigation of 2nd order analogues of calculi of individuals, as those developed by Goodman, where the reader will find some interesting metalogical results concerning these 2nd order extensions. Finally, de Donato-Rodríguez, in his paper "Construction and Worldmaking: the Significance of Nelson Goodman's Pluralism", discusses some debatable questions concerning the general philosophical aspects of Goodman's constructional philosophy, particularly the thesis of the plurality of worlds.

