

RATIONALITY AND COGNITION: AGAINST RELATIVISM-PRAGMATISM

Cognitive science has posed some radical challenges to philosophy in recent years, particularly in the study of the cognitive activities and capacities of individuals. Many philosophers have taken up the challenge, and one result has been the emergence of a radical new wave of relativism, one that assaults the credibility of rationalist views. In this book Nenad Mišćević defends naturalistic rationalism against these recent relativist attacks.

Mišćević begins with an excellent introduction to cognitive science and goes on to create a searching defence of human rationality and of a traditional role for truth in epistemology. He presents a critical scrutiny of the relativism championed by Stephen Stich and Paul Churchland and their followers, showing that it not only exaggerates the subversive impact of science, but relies on its links with naturalism for much of its credibility. His careful dissection of relativist arguments establishes the main outlines of a positive rationalistic picture that is both original and convincing.

(Toronto Studies in Philosophy)

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To my wife Vera and my daughter Heda

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