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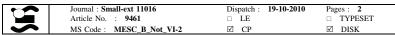
## BOOK NOTICE

- 2 Book notice
- 3 Friedrich Stadler (ed.): The present situation in the philosophy
- 4 of science. Dordrecht: Springer, 2010, 422pp, €139,95 HB
- 5 Stathis Psillos

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9 This edited collection brings together the various papers that were presented in the 10 first conference of the European Science Foundation-sponsored research network "The philosophy of Science in European Perspective" in Vienna at the end of 2008. 11 12 There are 28 contributions and an introduction by Fritz Stadler, which aims to draw links between the several papers and to find some unifying themes in the project of 13 developing philosophy of science in a *European* perspective. The papers (some of 14 15 which could have been better edited not to look too much like the oral presentations they initially were) are arranged around the five sections of the research network: 16 17 formal methods; philosophy of the natural and life sciences; philosophy of the 18 cultural and social sciences; philosophy of the physical sciences; history of 19 philosophy of science. Some of the papers are focused on searching what it is to do 20 philosophy of science in a European perspective, thereby investigating the issue of 21 what exactly a European perspective is. Other papers are more self-standing 22 research papers that could be in any collection—whether focused on the European 23 perspective or not (mostly the papers of part II—on formal methods; the papers of 24 part III—on the philosophy of the life sciences; the papers on part V—on the 25 philosophy of physics). This is not accidental, of course. It reflects the fact that there 26 is no—at least not yet—uniform understanding of what it is to do philosophy of 27 science in a European perspective. To many, this simply means doing philosophy of 28 science in Europe; that is, doing the standard philosophy of science stuff (realism, 29 causation, models, confirmation, philosophy of physics and the like) based in 30 Europe—as opposed to the Rest of the World. To others, the search of a European 31 perspective is the search of a distinctive approach or approaches to philosophy of 32 science. This search, as well the search for a methodology for this search, is mostly 33 encountered in parts I (history of philosophy of science) and IV (philosophy of the





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social and cultural sciences) of the book. There are some very interesting papers in these sections (e.g., by Thomas Uebel and Wenceslao Gonzalez), which explore ways to delineate the *European* element of the perspective. The fact is that unless this oscillation between doing philosophy of science *in* Europe and doing philosophy *from* a European point of view is resolved, it will not be clear what exactly is the "quintessentially European self-reflection on the aims and values of philosophy of science in itself", as Stadler puts it in the informative introduction (8). There is no doubt, as this volume makes clear too, that there is a lot of first-rate philosophy of science being done in Europe in all major areas of the discipline. But, I venture to say, the key to a European perspective is precisely the transgressing of the sub-disciplinary boundaries and the fostering of genuinely integrative approaches and agendas. This is something that a lot of the contributors to this volume are alive to and this suggests that the future for the *European* philosophy of science is bright.



