

## Copernicus, Darwin and Freud: Revolutions in the History and Philosophy of Science

By Friedel Weinert



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Using Copernicanism, Darwinism, and Freudianism as examples of scientific traditions, *Copernicus, Darwin and Freud* takes a philosophical look at these three revolutions in thought to illustrate the connections between science and philosophy.

- Shows how these revolutions in thought lead to philosophical consequences
- Provides extended case studies of Copernicanism, Darwinism, and Freudianism
- Integrates the history of science and the philosophy of science like no other text
- Covers both the philosophy of natural and social science in one volume



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#### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

"Whether used as a textbook or as a review of issues concerning scientific revolutions and theory change in their historical context, Copernicus, Darwin, and Freud may be strongly recommended." (The Journal of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science, 2011)

"Those seeking a more conventional approach to the history and philosophy of science may well find Weinert's book informative...there is much to be learned from Weinert's comparison of Copernicus, Darwin, and Freud." (*Science & Education*, January 2011)

#### Review

"Why is Darwin less the Copernicus than the Kepler of biology? What are good criteria for scientific revolutions? Shift of perspective? Replacement of paradigms? Reweaving conceptual networks? Explanatory gain? Restructuring the constraint space? Threatening worldviews? Whoever wants to learn more about these and many other important issues of history & philosophy of science will have to read on!"

-Klaus Hentschel, full professor for history of science & technology, University of Stuttgart

"Friedel Weinert has done a rare and excellent thing in this book: he has shown how the philosophy of science is intimately connected with the development of physical, biological and social sciences and that argument concerning the foundations of these sciences cannot be advanced with out reference to philosophy. It is a clearly written and engaging book that will be informative for teachers, students and the lay public alike."

-Robert Nola, Dept of Philosophy, the University of Auckland

#### From the Back Cover

Scientific ideas change the way we think about the world and our place in it. Nicolaus Copernicus developed a heliocentric view of the cosmos that displaced humans from the physical center of the universe. Charles Darwin developed an evolutionary theory that placed humans firmly within the organismic order of nature. It was Sigmund Freud who saw himself as completing this cycle of disparagement by destroying the belief that humans were 'masters in their own house'.

Copernicus, Darwin and Freud: Revolutions in the History and Philosophy of Science deals with issues in the area of intersection between history and philosophy of natural and social science. Using Copernicanism, Darwinism and Freudianism as extended case studies, Friedel Weinert illustrates the profound connections between science and philosophy and shows how scientific theories invariably have philosophical consequences. Philosophical controversies surrounding ideas of human nature, realism and instrumentalism, models and theories, laws of nature and scientific method are all examined within the context of concrete problem situations in the history of science.

Copernicus, Darwin and Freud is an engaging and versatile text suitable for a variety of courses in the history and philosophy of science or for individual study.

#### **Users Review**

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#### **Darrell Fowler:**

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