



Gerold Reisinger (Autor)

Paul Henri Thiry d'Holbach's and Richard Dawkins's Comprehensive Scientism

Gerold Reisinger

**Paul Henri Thiry d'Holbach's
and Richard Dawkins's
Comprehensive Scientism**



Cuvillier Verlag Göttingen
Internationaler wissenschaftlicher Fachverlag

<https://cuvillier.de/de/shop/publications/8713>

Copyright:

Cuvillier Verlag, Inhaberin Annette Jentzsch-Cuvillier, Nonnenstieg 8, 37075 Göttingen,
Germany

Telefon: +49 (0)551 54724-0, E-Mail: info@cuvillier.de, Website: <https://cuvillier.de>



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of contents	7
Introduction	11
0.1. <i>What is Comprehensive Scientism?</i>	11
0.2. <i>Interests and objectives of this thesis</i>	12
0.3. <i>The current state of research on scientism</i>	15
0.4. <i>Archetypes of Comprehensive Scientism: d'Holbach and Dawkins</i>	17
0.5. <i>My methodological approach to comprehensive scientism</i>	20
P A R T O N E	25
Systematic investigation of comprehensive scientism	25
1.1. <i>What is science?</i>	27
1.1.1. What does ‘science in its narrow sense’ mean?	32
1.1.2. What does ‘science in its broader sense’ mean?	35
1.1.3. What is the difference between science and non-science?	37
1.2. <i>What is Scientism?</i>	39
1.3. <i>What are the components of Comprehensive Scientism?</i>	41
1.3.1. Academic Scientism	41
1.3.2. Universal scientism	43
1.3.3. How do the components of Comprehensive Scientism logically relate to each other?	52
1.3.4. What are the rivals of and the reasons for Comprehensive Scientism?	59
1.3.5. Is Comprehensive Scientism a ‘Weltanschauung’?	69
P A R T T W O	77
Comprehensive Scientism in the light of Paul-Henri Thiry d’Holbach’s and Richard Dawkins’s publications	77
3. <i>Epistemological Scientism</i>	79



3.1. D'Holbach's epistemological scientism	79
3.2. Richard Dawkins's epistemological scientism	94
3.3. Can we rationally hold on to a belief that does not have any justification?	106
3.4. Conclusion	112
<i>4. Ontological scientism</i>	116
4.1. D'Holbach's Ontological Scientism	116
4.2. Dawkins's Ontological Scientism	129
4.3. Can something arise from nothing?	136
4.4. Conclusion	145
<i>5. Moral Scientism</i>	149
5.1. The moral scientism of d'Holbach	149
5.2. The moral scientism of Dawkins	164
5.3. Can we infer moral commands from scientific facts?	174
5.4. Conclusion	185
<i>6. Existential Scientism</i>	189
6.1. The existential scientism of d'Holbach	189
6.2. The existential scientism of Dawkins	205
6.3. Is the fine-tuning of the universe evidence for the existence of God?	219
6.4. Conclusion	228
7. Conclusion	231
<i>7.1. Atheism as the main ideology that drives Comprehensive Scientism</i>	231
<i>7.2. Coherence of Comprehensive Scientism's arguments</i>	233
<i>7.3. Questions to be explored</i>	237
Consulted Works	239