



ESM in Philosophical Perspective: an Ongoing Transformation

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Current efforts in Earth System Modeling (ESM) exemplify how computer-based modeling can make complex systems accessible to scientific investigation. ESM also is a prime example for science acting in a policy context. Neither of these aspects is exclusive to ESM, but both aspects interact in interesting and novel ways. This interaction has effects on fundamental conceptions that we use for making sense of and evaluating science. The talk will focus on one such concept, namely “understanding”, and argue for the following claim: A new or transformed concept of understanding is about to develop that markedly differs from established notions of understanding.