

Cross-Cutting Themes of Nature and Future

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After the Nature-Culture Dichotomy

The critique of the nature-culture dichotomy is widespread and effective, e.g. see Descola, 2011. However, it is not clear what to use instead. Ternary, conceptual models (God, humans, nature) have a long tradition in the Western culture. They are our next choice and are (implicitly) behind many mainstream contemporary approaches. Their modern form has been popularized by Penrose, 2005. For the controversy in physics about this geometric metaphor see (Hut, Alford und Tegmark, 2006).

critique becomes accepted

- many cultures do not have it
- relatively recent invention within Western culture(s)

obsolet by theoretical and pragmatic reason

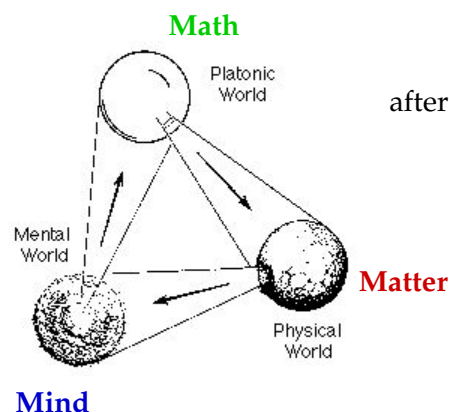
... but what comes next?

Candidates

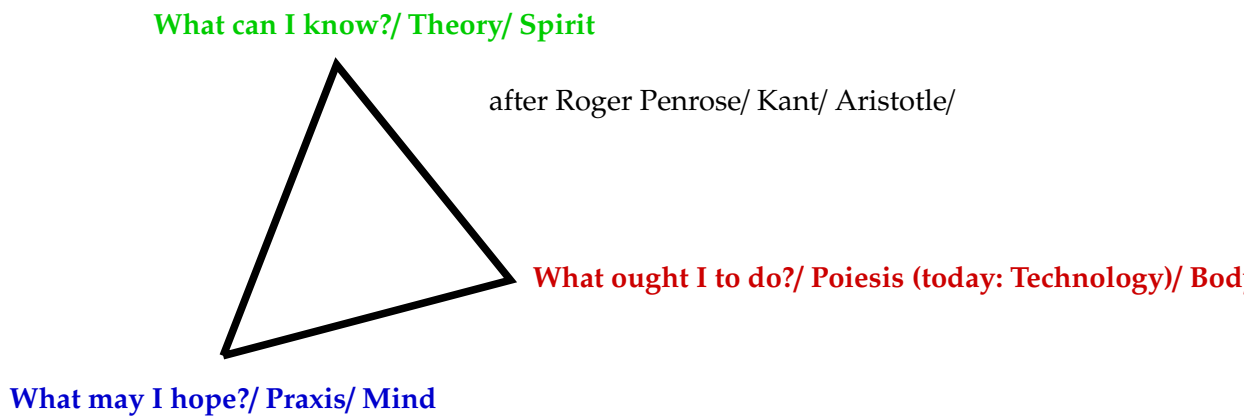
With a number of disciplines the current mainstream can be aligned with one the corners. This is demonstrated by the first three entries in the subsequent list:

culturalistic another human invention

materialistic another fundamentalist position



after Roger Penrose, 2005



transcendent outside science, not a systematic option

modeling theory import from computer science this import from computer science works best within quaternary models, which will be introduced on the third day.

ethnology has been part of their tools of the trade

- gaze at the Other
- gaze at the past
- reflexive: anthropology of the modern (Latour, 2013)
- methodologically biased?

Another prominent option is to 'pimp up' anthropology as a provider of interdisciplinary theory.

How is the ternary structure of objects (platonic, mental, material) inevitably linked to the nature culture dichotomy?

1 References

Descola, P. (2011). *Jenseits von Natur und Kultur*. Suhrkamp Verlag.

Hut, P., M. Alford und M. Tegmark (2006). „On Math, Matter and Mind“. In: *Found. Phys.* 36, S. 765–794. DOI: [10.1007/s10701-006-9048-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10701-006-9048-x).

Latour, B. (2013). *An inquiry into modes of existence*. Harvard University Press.

Penrose, R. (2005). *The Road to Reality: A Complete Guide to the Laws of the Universe*. 3. Aufl. Knopf. ISBN: 978-0679454434.