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## Colloquium

# SCIENCE AND REALITY: SOME RECENT PERSPECTIVES IN PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

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The presentation begins by locating the place of philosophy of science in the general scheme of philosophy and delineates the main issues sought to be tackled in the subject. It also identifies some reasons why philosophy of science has become frontier area of research.

After identifying two central issues in contemporary philosophy of science, namely, the Real and the Rational, the presentation focuses on the former. After dealing with certain well-known positions on the issue such as Instrumentalism, Descriptivism and Conventionalism, the presentation enters into a detailed discussion on the perspectives which have generated intense debate. In particular Internal Realism propounded by Thomas Kuhn in his later works is explicated and criticisms against it are considered. This is preceded by a brief look at the main thesis of Kuhn's well-known earlier work—*The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* and the way this work cleared the grounds for Kuhn's later position which will be juxtaposed with other positions on the issue of realism by means of a brief look at the views of Karl Popper and Ian Hacking. The presentation ends with some brief remarks about what may be called Immanent Rationalism which steers clear of Transcendental Rationalism, the traditional view and Anti-Rationalism, fashionable today, just as Internal Realism steered clear of Realism and Anti-Realism.

**Tuesday, Apr 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014**

**11:30 AM (Tea/Coffee at 11:15 AM)**

**Seminar Hall, TCIS**