

Leszek Nowak's Philosophy of Science, Social Philosophy and Metaphysics

ABSTRACT. The paper discusses Leszek Nowak's main philosophical achievements with special emphasis on his idealizational theory of science (ITS). We begin by making a biographical note and explaining why Leszek Nowak initially presented his own methodological ideas as an interpretation of the Marxist philosophy of science. Then we introduce the basic concepts of Nowak's ITS: the idealizational law, the idealizational theory and the processes of idealization and concretization. Even this sketchy presentation of ITS shows that this highly original and systematically developed conception of scientific knowledge applies to both the natural and the social sciences. The second part of the paper presents the main ideas of Nowak's non-Marxist historical materialism and his last and the most ambitious work on metaphysics.

KEY WORDS: method of idealization, idealizational law, theory of socialism, metaphysical system

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