

Call for Papers – Special Issue for *Synthese*

## FIRST PRINCIPLES IN SCIENCE: THEIR EPISTEMIC STATUS AND JUSTIFICATION

Guest Editors: Catherine Herfeld (University of Zurich), Milena Ivanova (University of Queensland)

Special Issue Description: What is the epistemic status of first principles in science and how do scientists justify them accordingly? This special issue aims at renewing the existing discussions on the status and justification of first principles by considering an interdisciplinary perspective. The aim is to improve our understanding of the role and justification of first principles in the natural sciences, the life sciences, and social sciences, and to address more generally questions concerning the way in which knowledge is produced in those disciplines with or without such principles.

Appropriate topics for submission include, among others:

- Constitutive principles in space-time theories and beyond
- Principles as relativized a priori elements
- First principles in the social sciences, the life sciences, and the natural sciences
- The role of first principles in scientific theorizing
- Questions around the epistemic and methodological status of first principles
- Ways in which first principles or their absence is justified in science

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The deadline for submissions is November 1, 2017

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