

Foreword

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The SILFS 2010 International Congress, held in Bergamo (Italy) on December 15-17, 2010, saw the participation of more than one hundred scholars, coming not only from European Union, but also from countries all over the world: there were researchers from United States of America, from Mexico, from Canada, as well as researchers coming from Middle East (for instance, Iran and Israel). The conference then turned out to be an opportunity of cultural exchange between scholars, who shared the possibility of a dialogue with colleagues occupied in the same field of study: a dialogue that gave rise to deep philosophical discussions and, in some cases, to future collaborations.

This monographic volume is originated from the will of the Scientific Committee of the conference, together with the aim of the Editorial Board of the journal *Logic and Philosophy of Science*, of giving a testament to that event. The big amount of articles received, and the variety of arguments considered in them, offers a wide (though not complete, as in the case of every anthological publication in this field) panoramic of the problems that nowadays animate researches in logic and epistemology. In order to make easier the reading of the volume, it has been chosen to organize the articles in different thematic areas, which include: Logic and Applications, History and Philosophy of Mathematics, History and Philosophy of Logic, History and Philosophy of Physics, Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Medical Sciences, Philosophy of Cognitive Sciences, Philosophy of Social Sciences, and General Epistemology.

Obviously, every such thematic division implies a range of arbitrariness that is not, in principle, avoidable. Too deep are indeed today the connections between different fields of researches in epistemology, and rigid categorizations could be only a matter of conventionality: for instance, relations between bi-

ology, cognitive sciences and epistemology are too ramified, for allowing the placement of every study that affords the problem of the nature of human knowledge and its biological basis in one, and only one, of these field of research. The same holds for the connections between philosophy of physics and philosophy of mathematics, and, in general, for every one of the thematic areas listed above.

But this is the nature of contemporary research in philosophy of science: once we have outdone the static contrapositions between 'humanistic' and 'scientific' cultures, or between 'analytic' and 'continental' philosophers, philosophy of science appears today more and more as a kind of "linking-knowledge", that allows us to discover unattended connections between the different fields of scientific inquiry and, in general, of human knowledge.