**Scientific Realism, Models and the Social and Behavioral Sciences**
Harold Kincaid
University of Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA

Debates over realism at the level of entire theories or sciences probably rest on overoptimistic philosophical pretensions. More local debates over specific pieces of science that are strongly connected to the scientific evidence itself I argue can be fruitfully approached by philosophers of science. I look at two categories of realism questions in the social and behavioral science: debates over the reality of social and behavior categories and debates over unrealistic models. In the first category I look at debates over the reality of psychopathological classifications and social class. In the second category I argue that completely general attempts to solve the puzzle of unrealistic models over reach but that there are many interesting questions when the issues is translated into one about causal models.