

# Editorial: JKSS and Paul Feyerabend

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In our inaugural issue, the main objective was to show the breadth of our scope. In its preparation, we strove to show that the right approach to knowledge should be a multi- and interdisciplinary one. In effect, it makes little sense today to focus work in knowledge on subjects like epistemology or knowledge representation if these are taken too narrowly. A good example of what a multi- and interdisciplinary approach to knowledge is—or should be—is ontology: In this field, if taken broadly, it is hardly possible to say where discussions on epistemological matters end and knowledge representation and engineering proper begin, as (upper) ontologies are often expressed as axiomatic theories in formalisms in which, it is believed, ontological structures are optimally captured and represented for machine readability.

In our second issue, the aim is now to show that there are two objectives that propel our publishing venture, nicknamed JKSS. Both objectives are inspired by Paul Feyerabend's *principle of proliferation*. To begin with, we *adopt* this principle, according to which there must be a large variety of competing theories at any given time. The idea is that only amid this proliferation can the good theories be isolated—stand out—with respect to the bad or mediocre ones. This would actually require a revolution in how scientific research is done. As it is, academic research, greatly tied-up in institutional—and even all too frequently governmental—biases and other limitations, does not foster the prosecution of this principle. On the other hand, industrial research tends to concentrate on profit, often falling into something more like business competition, an obstacle to scientific debate.

But, hey!, we do what we can, and we *adapt* Feyerabend's principle, which per force requires public discussion of theories, to the present times. This we do, as an open access venue, by promoting real-time organized (sorry, Paul, but no scientific anarchism) discussion on articles published in JKSS. Our publishing model from now on: Each issue will be expanded from two or three core articles, i.e. original-research and review articles. This model will be implemented in two ways:

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Firstly, a few authors whose work was cited in these pieces are invited to complete a commentary article to be published in the same issue. Other authors interested in also publishing their commentaries are invited to submit their proposals. In either case, commentary articles will be reviewed only by the editor-in-chief for adequacy of content and style. Authors of accepted commentary articles are thus sole responsible for their contents, as we believe this to be part of the real-time debate guidelines we aim to put into effect in JKSS. But make no mistake: We aim at the highest standards of current scientific publishing. Enough said.

Secondly, because relevant discussion already takes place during the peer-review process between authors and reviewers we encourage the latter to publish a short Reviewer Commentary at the end of the article they reviewed, to which the former may give an Author Reply. This is only possible if the authors consent, but in any case reviewers can always complete a reviewer commentary to be published in the same issue as an independent piece. Importantly, we may publish articles that were not fully recommended for publication, but all reviewers who engaged in constructive discussion with the authors during the peer review are welcome to have their say whenever they are willing to disclose their names.

To finish in proper style, we leave here Feyerabend's own words—in *Against Method*—on the principle of proliferation for those who are not acquainted with it, or just to bring it back to our frontal cortices:

*Proliferation of theories is beneficial for science, while uniformity impairs its critical power.*

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