

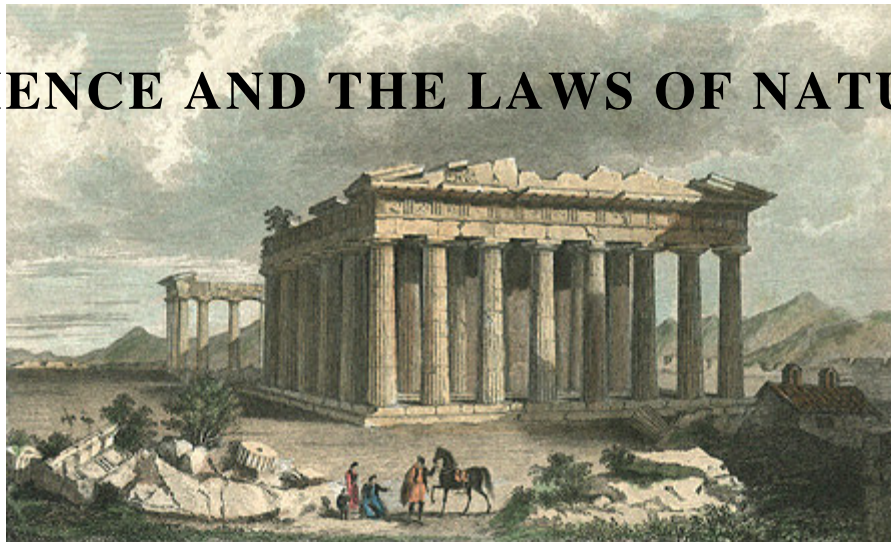
THE PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE DEPARTMENT, IPR, BAS
AND
THE PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT OF SOFIA UNIVERSITY

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO THE



CHRISTMAS DEBATE OF THE
CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY SEMINAR

“SCIENCE AND THE LAWS OF NATURE”



Presented by Nina Atanasova, Ph.D. and debated by
Assoc. Prof. Lili Gurova (NBU and BAS)

In this presentation I will examine one of the most extravagant positions in philosophy of science. This is Ronald Giere's Science without laws of nature thesis, which he introduced in his 1999 *Science without Laws*. His statement has two basic dimensions: an ontological and a methodological. According to his ontological stance even though there are regularities and necessities in nature there are no laws of nature. The notion of a law of nature is just an interpretative category. Hence, his methodological stance: laws of nature do not play any important role in scientific practice. Therefore a proper philosophical account of science should not deal with the notion of laws of nature. I will show that his ontological claim about laws of nature is untenable. Then I will argue that if scientists themselves believe in the laws' existence, than the notion plays a methodological role and is not just an interpretative category. This will lead to the need for the philosophy of science to deal with the notion of laws of nature as used by scientists. Finally, I will suggest that in order to Giere be consistent his position about laws should be revised because otherwise it contradicts his two major commitments, which are realism and naturalism.

14th OF DECEMBER
SOFIA UNIVERSITY, AUDITORIUM 41
19⁰⁰ HRS

The working language of the seminar is English.