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*Methods of Causal Inference and Scientific Representation*

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**"Explicación, idealización y modelización en una concepción inferencialista amplia"**

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## **“EXPLICACIÓN, IDEALIZACIÓN Y MODELIZACIÓN EN UNA CONCEPCIÓN INFERENCIALISTA AMPLIA”**

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In the present paper, I defend an inferential view of modelization and explanation. Models are seen as “inferential prostheses” (instruments for surrogative reasoning). The value of scientific models or representations are understood not only in terms of the success of inferential outcomes arrived at with their help, but also in terms of their heuristic power and capacity to correct and improve our models. Idealization, understood as a certain counterfactual deformation procedure, is seen as central in the process of modelization. At the same time, I offer a more comprehensive account of explanation, following a pragmatic approach similar to that of Robert Brandom. I also provide a model of explanation, which is both inferential and dialectical (as it is based on ideas developed by Douglas Walton and others in the field of the theory of argumentation). According to this view, the acceptance of a new commitment by a scientific community depends not only on its of approximate truth but also on its capacity in making more coherent and workable the network of commitments and inferential links of the discipline.