

Two Types of Eliminativism: Semantic Eliminativism and Scientific Eliminativism

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I will contrast two types of eliminativism. Semantic eliminativist arguments conclude that some entities (e.g., beliefs or races) do not exist because some predicate (e.g., "belief" or "race") is empty. By contrast, scientific eliminativist arguments conclude that some theoretical predicate (e.g., "emotion" or "concept") should be eliminated from the theoretical vocabulary of some science (e.g., psychology) because it fails to refer to a natural kind. I will argue that semantic eliminativist arguments face some major problems and that scientific eliminativism should be preferred to semantic eliminativism.

This talk will be based on the last chapter of my forthcoming book, *Doing without Concepts*, which has been emailed to conference participants.