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Editorial

The third Special Issue of ABSTRACTA is dedicated to *Reliable Reasoning: Induction and Statistical Learning Theory* (MIT Press, 2007) by Gilbert Harman and Sanjeev Kulkarni, both from Princeton University. We are proud to publish this critical discussion of such an important topic for philosophy of science in general (and of psychology, in particular) as well as contemporary epistemology.

In *Reliable Reasoning* Harman and Kulkarni take seriously the vexed philosophical problem of induction. They shed new light on it by proposing that philosophers can benefit from the application of statistical learning theory (and its mathematical framework) to approach that problem. As Harman and Kulkarni tell us in this symposium, their "intention in writing *Reliable Reasoning* was to suggest that basic statistical learning theory provides one sort of response to the traditional philosophical problem of induction, which asks what can be shown *a priori* about induction."

The result could not have been more stimulating. As Michael Strevens points out in his paper, "*Reliable Reasoning* is a simple, accessible, beautifully explained introduction to (…) statistical learning theory." Similarly, Glenn Shafer highlights that the authors "have written an enjoyable and informative book that makes [statistical learning theory] accessible to a wide audience" and whose "undertaking is important, and the execution is laudable." Paul Thagard, in his turn, contends that Harman & Kulkarni "have presented a strong case that statistical learning theory is highly relevant to issues in philosophy and psychology concerning inductive inferences." And Stephen José Hanson reminds us that the book "is a wonderful redux to a time in the early half of the 20th century when statistical learning theory was just developing, and when new methods and concepts were being discovered."

We are thankful to all those who have taken part in this symposium for giving us the opportunity of publishing such a high-level discussion. We would like to thank, first of

all, Gilbert Harman and Sanjeev Kulkarni for their attention, time, and generous support throughout the process of editing the symposium as well as for making it possible in the first place. We also thank the discussants, Stephen José Hanson, Glenn Shafer, Michael Strevens, and Paul Thagard, who dedicated their time and efforts to write their contributions, and who have made possible such an open and qualified academic debate. Last but not least, we are grateful to Ann Twiselton and to the MIT Press for their kind support.

We are confident that our readers will enjoy this intellectually challenging issue of ABSTRACTA.

André Abath &
Leonardo de Mello Ribeiro,
EDITORS.

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