CONTENTS

Preface ix
1. Observation and Conceptual Interpretation 1

Part 1 / The Material Realization and Conceptual Interpretation of Observational Processes 9

2. The Absence of Experience in Empiricism 11
3. The Conceptual Analysis of Observation 19
4. The Interaction-Information Theory of Observability and Observation 33
5. Connectionist Accounts of Observation 43
6. A Hermeneutical Approach to Perception 57
7. The Material Realization and Conceptual Interpretation of Observational Processes 71

Part 2 / How Concepts Both Structure the World and Abstract from It 91

8. How Concepts Structure the World 93
11. Wider Philosophical Implications 119
12. Abstraction, Formalization, and Digitization 129
13. Aristotelian Abstraction and Scientific Theorizing 138
14. Abstraction and the Extension of Actor Networks 145
15. Meaning Finitism and the Sociology of Scientific Knowledge 154
16. Product Patenting as the Exploitation of Abstract Possibilities 163
17. Epilogue: Experience, Naturalism, and Critique 179

Notes 187 References 201 Index 213