

The Complex Thought and Its Borders

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It is argued that the complex thought is the most relevant instrument to deal with the complexity of natural, human and social forms or structures in the world we live in. The basis for the complex thought is the modern theory of self-organization of complex systems, or the theory of complexity. Although the theory may be considered in the context of the historical traditions of natural philosophy, it is unfairly to treat it as a modern “speculative physics”, i.e. natural philosophy of a new type. However, there is no doubt that on the basis of the theory of complexity a certain worldview is built and this worldview oversteps the borders of traditional fundamental scientific disciplines and reaches a meta-scientific level of research. An attempt to critically analyze the claims of the theory of complexity to certain interdisciplinary generalizations and the universal efficacy of its models is made in the paper. The grounds of transfer of patterns of the complex thought to different disciplinary fields are under discussion. It is argued that the theory of complexity is rather a mental scheme or a heuristic approach to exploring the complex behavior of systems of different nature, than a universal key to solving concrete scientific or practical problems. Some prospects of development and of the possible future of the modern complexity studies within the next decades are estimated.