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The Unavoidability of Metaphysics

E. J. Lowe in his 2012 book *A Survey of Metaphysics* while defining what metaphysicsisoffered an argument within which the thesis of unavoidability of metaphysics has been presented. The thesis of unavoidability of metaphysics claims that metaphysics is ineliminable and because of its universal subject matter and its irreducibility it presents itself as a theoretical backdrop within which the mutual consistency of other sciences may be tested. Additionally, criticisms that aim to discredit metaphysics as meaningless and/or impossible ultimately reinforce the thesis of its unavoidability and indispensability.

My intent is to examine how such an argument for the unavoidability of metaphysics fares against Carnap’s critique of ontology as presented in his seminal paper “Empiricism, Semantic and Ontology”. Furthermore, following van Fraassen’s conceptions of science as activity and science as product I examine how these notions may be applied to metaphysics and how they relate to the thesis of the unavoidability of metaphysics.