

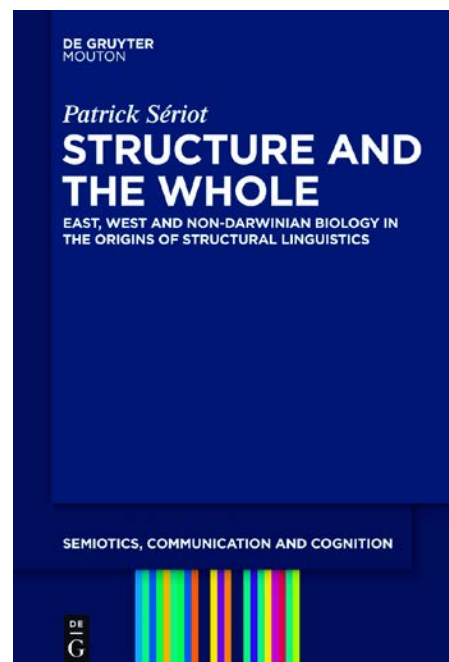
Patrick Sériot

STRUCTURE AND THE WHOLE

EAST, WEST AND NON-DARWINIAN BIOLOGY IN THE ORIGINS OF STRUCTURAL LINGUISTICS

The last word is not yet out on structuralism. Whole swaths of the history of its emergence and intellectual origins have yet to be investigated. The English-speaking world in particular is strikingly unaware that much of that history unfolded in Central and Eastern Europe during the interwar period. This book purports to reconstitute that unfamiliar history, identifying the Romantic notion of the whole as the fundamental epistemological source of the notion of structure in the thinking of the Prague Linguistic Circle, primarily its Russian representatives, and studying what amounted to the slow, painful process of disengagement from the organicist metaphor in an intellectual world very different from Saussure's.

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