Critical Rationalism (CR) Debate Tree

This tree attempts to document the objective state of the debate between CR and its opponents. Underlined text is a link.

by Elliot Temple, 2019

Yeah, despite publishing no criticisms of CR nor endorsing any criticism of CR by anyone else. So they are staking their careers on CR being wrong but don't seem to know of any arguments refuting CR. I wrote them an Open Letter about that, which they didn't address.

The Machine Intelligence Research Institute is doing AI research in CR-incompatible ways.

No, see here.

Didn't CR deny science achieves knowledge? Isn't it skepticism?

I explained that he was wrong and that his comments were low quality.

Martin Gardner criticized Popper.

Binswanger banned me from his paid forum for trying to debate CR. He violated his own philosophy, Objectivism, rather than think about the issues. He also misquoted Popper and didn't care about his error.

Objectivist philosopher Harry Binswanger called Popper a villain and suggested that he wouldn't have minded if Popper (an Austrian of Jewish descent) had been killed in the Holocaust.

Alan Forrester answered Maxwell.

Nicholas Maxwell made remarks critical of CR.

Yudkowsky also took moderator action to suppress CR discussion that he didn't participate in. He said, "Post removed from main and discussion on grounds that I've never seen anything voted down that far before. Page will still be accessible to those who know the address." Truth isn't a popularity contest. Suppressing unpopular ideas is irrational. And the page was deleted entirely a little later, it didn't remain accessible as claimed.

Yudkowsky later attacked Popper again in a book. Alan Forrester refuted those comments.

He was wrong. I told him. He didn't reply.

Eliezer Yudkowsky criticized Popper briefly.

I answered here.

How does CR deal with gradations of certainty?

Besides being answered by Popper, he was also answered by David Deutsch in The Fabric of Reality.

What about Kuhn?

So do you think all the CR people are smart and everyone else is idiots?

No, most CR people make tons of mistakes too. See e.g. my comments on Critical Rationalism: Essays for Joseph Agassi, comments on Rethinking Popper papers, and exchange with David Miller..

I've discussed with my Critical Rationalists. Most don't want to discuss issues to conclusions and aren't interested in learning about improvements to CR's theory of critical preferences.

The real issue is whether CR epistemology is true, not about the merits of particular people.

People, including friends or students of Popper, like Bryan Magee, have attacked Popper's personality. They've accused him of getting angry in debate.

That's not relevant to whether CR is correct. Regardless, I responded.

Nicholas Dykes wrote a criticism of CR.

Alan Forrester refuted it.

Dykes replied "I have read it. I do not consider it worthy of a reply." but then wrote 3 paragraphs anyway including "'Muddle-headed old duffer' might strike some as an argumentum ad hominem. It is not."

Forrester replied anyway. Dykes had no more arguments or insults.

Rafe Champion, a Critical Rationalist, added: "I exchanged emails with Nicholas Dykes years ago ... Nicholas was warned many years ago that [his paper] would not stand up to criticism from anyone who actually read Popper carefully..."

Anthony O'Hear wrote a CR criticism.

It's bad. I criticized it and sent O'Hear the link. He didn't respond.

Edwin Locke, an Objectivist, wrote a paper critical of CR.

It's bad. He doesn't understand what CR's positions are. See my blog post.

David Stove criticized CR.

I refuted that.

Have you tried asking for criticisms of CR?

Yes, on many forums. And see here.

OK so, based on the rest of this diagram, Temple and Forrester wrote some rebuttals to Popper criticisms. They haven't been answered and haven't been able to find any serious critics of CR. **What was the debate like back in Popper's time?**

The Philosophy of Karl Popper is a 2 volume book, edited by Paul Arthur Schilpp. It contains 33 articles about CR from other philosophers. Most of them contain criticism. And it contains Popper's replies to his critics.

I'm unaware of any followup from one of the critics, or anyone else, explaining why Popper's rebuttal was mistaken. I would be shocked if something exists somewhere. But if any current opponents of Popper know of such a thing, they've never told me or mentioned it anywhere that I've found, so I don't think it informs their views.

I'm unaware of any critic of Popper who has read Schilpp book and then stated that, after reviewing all the arguments in the book, he believes he has a *new* criticism of CR that Popper didn't already address.