



INQUIRY
2020, VOL. 63, NO. 7, 677–692
<https://doi.org/10.1080/0020174X.2019.1656885>



Bennett on building

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses three aspects of Karen Bennett's theory of building relations, as articulated in her book *Making Things Up*: the inclusion of causation among the building relations, the denial that non-fundamental things add to the complexity of a theory, and the claim that building relations are one-sided relations that are themselves built. Section 1 gives a brief overview. Section 2 seeks to motivate a distinction between building relations and making relations (where the former require their relata to overlap), and questions whether the deep structural similarities among building relations has the methodological consequences that Bennett claims. Section 3 argues against the claim that considerations of ontological simplicity in theory choice are restricted to non-fundamental entities. Section 4 raises objections to the idea of a one-sided building relation.

ARTICLE HISTORY Received 1 May 2018; Accepted 14 August 2019

KEYWORDS Grounding; Relations; Ockham's Razor; Ontology; Metametaphysics

1. Introduction

