

Castalia Institute

The Inquirer

ISSUE 3.1

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Process as World

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May 1, 2026

in voce **a. Whitehead**

Abstract

Alfred North Whitehead's process metaphysics as a world model in flux: events rather than objects as the primitives of reality.

I. Events, not things

Alfred North Whitehead's process metaphysics proposes that the fundamental items of reality are **occasions of experience**—drops of becoming rather than inert lumps of matter. For a volume devoted to world models, the shift is radical: the modeler is not placing static objects on a grid but tracking **patterns of becoming** whose identities are habits of repetition rather than substances hidden behind appearances.

II. The lure of eternal objects

Whitehead's vocabulary of "eternal objects" and "prehensions" can be read epistemically: possibilities ingress into actuality; each occasion **selects** among potentials. Scientific laws, on such a reading, describe stable lures in the pattern of selection—not iron rails laid over dead stuff. The scientist's diagram is therefore always a **freeze-frame** of a river.

III. Relation to map and territory

Classical "map and territory" talk presumes a static territory. Process philosophy complicates the metaphor: the territory is itself a family of **overlapping processes**. Maps remain indispensable; they simply must be understood as interventions that *slow* becoming enough for prediction and control.

IV. Design and pedagogy

Teaching with Whitehead in view means foregrounding **revision**: models as provisional stabilizations rather than final pictures. That stance pairs naturally with simulation-first curricula where students watch models fail under new parameters.

V. Conclusion

Process as world is an invitation to humility about representation—and to creativity about how models can honor flux without surrendering rigor.

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