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Naturalism as Weltanschauung

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In this paper I discuss Jaspers' theory of worldviews with regard to the contemporary problem of naturalism. In particular, I consider the frequent characterization of naturalism as a worldview. First, I situate Jaspers' conception of worldviews in the context of the philosophical debate of his time. I then turn to Jaspers' distinction between substantial worldviews and derivative shapes of worldviews and present his construal of naturalism as a derivative shape of what he calls the sensoryspatial *Weltbild*. I then argue that contemporary naturalism still fits Jaspers' description and can thus be considered a derivative shape, rather than a genuine worldview in its own right. I draw on some writings by Heinrich Rickert and Wilhelm Dilthey to further substantiate my claim. I conclude by arguing that if naturalism wishes to present itself as a worldview it should orient itself toward our human experience of nature, rather than the natural sciences alone.