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How to combine philosophical ways of
thinking and experimental science:
a discussion on the scope of knowledge by Nicholas of
Cusa in the *Dialogues of the Idiot*, from *De Mente* to
De Staticis experimentis

Abstract

The paper aims to show how the definition of mind, as mens mesurans, developed by Nicholas of Cusa in the Dialogues of the Idiot, links together metaphysics and scientific experiment. The focus is put on the connection between De mente and De staticis experimentis, in so far as these two dialogues renew the issue of the modalities of knowledge and experience. In this way, the move from theoretical to practical knowledge is made possible by the nature of mind and the operative dimension of knowledge, based on figures and measures. The position of Man is not the only element that needs to be considered. Actually, this epistemic turn leads to an art of practical conjectures.