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Type:	Monograph
Title:	On the Origin of Ideas. An Abductivist Approach to Discovery. Revised and enlarged edition
Author:	Paavola, Sami
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Abstract:	In "On the Origin of Ideas" various forms of abduction are analyzed as means of conceptualizing processes of discovery. Abductive detective methodology is developed further by emphasizing strategic and processual outlooks, that is, different kinds of processes which both constrain and instigate the search for new ideas. The author proposes that there is a logic in the processes of discovery, although its basis is a weak form of inference, namely, abduction. Abduction was originally presented by C. S. Peirce as a third main mode of inference besides deduction and induction. It is closely related to many kinds of cognitive processes besides reasoning, such as instinct, perception, problem solving and distributed cognition. A distinction between "Harmanian abduction," that is, the Inference to the Best Explanation model, and "Hansonian abduction" as conceptualizing processes of discovery, is made. Critical trends in philosophy of science regarding abduction and discovery are also presented, and a short history of abduction is outlined, both with Peirce's own formulations and later developments. The book is an revised and enlarged version of a dissertation published at 2006.
Table of Contents:	Preface v Introduction 1 1 Discovery with Philosophical Means 9 2 A Short History of Abduction 21 2.1 Abduction for Peirce 21 2.2 Abduction after Peirce 31 2.3 Ways of interpreting and classifying abduction 45 3 Abduction as a Logic and Methodology of Discovery: The Importance of Strategies 57 4 Hansonian and Harmanian Abduction as Models of Discovery 73 5 Abduction through Grammar, Critic, and Methodeutic 95 6 Peircean Abduction: Instinct or Inference? 123

7 Three Abductive Solutions to the Meno Paradox: With Instinct, Inference, and Distributed Cognition	151
8 Abduction with Dialogical and Trialogical Means	169
9 Abductive Logic of Discovery with Distributed Means	189
10 Epilogue – Why not Abandon Conceptualizations of Discovery and Creativity?	
	201
References	215
Name Index	247
Subject Index	251

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