



Scrutinizing Science

Mansoor Niaz



Scrutinizing Science:

Scrutinizing Science A. Donovan, R. Laudan, 2012-12-06

A House Built on Sand Noretta Koertge, 1998-08-27

Cultural critics say that science is politics by other means arguing that the results of scientific inquiry are profoundly shaped by the ideological agendas of powerful elites They base their claims on historical case studies purporting to show the systematic intrusion of sexist racist capitalist colonialist and or professional interests into the very content of science Physicist Alan Sokal recently poked fun at these claims by foisting a sly parody of the genre on the unwitting editors of the cultural studies journal *Social Text* touching off a still unabated torrent of editorials articles and heated classroom and Internet discussion This hard hitting collection picks up where Sokal left off The essayists offer crisp and detailed critiques of case studies offered by the cultural critics as evidence that scientific results tell us more about social context than they do about the natural world Pulling no punches they identify numerous crude factual blunders e g that Newton never performed any experiments and egregious errors of omission such as the attempt to explain the slow development of fluid dynamics solely in terms of gender bias Where there are positive aspects of a flawed account or something to be learned from it they do not hesitate to say so Their target is shoddy scholarship Comprising new essays by distinguished scholars of history philosophy and science including Sokal himself this book raises a lively debate to a new level of seriousness

Understanding Psychology as a Science Zoltan Dienes, 2008-02-28 How can we objectively define categories of truth in scientific thinking How can we reliably measure the results of research In this ground breaking text Dienes undertakes a comprehensive historical analysis of the dominant schools of thought key theories and influential thinkers that have progressed the foundational principles and characteristics that typify scientific research methodology today This book delivers a masterfully simple though not simplistic introduction to the core arguments surrounding Popper Kuhn and Lakatos Fisher and Royall Neyman and Pearson and Bayes Subsequently this book clarifies the prevalent misconceptions that surround such theoretical perspectives in psychology today providing an especially accessible critique for student readers This book launches an informative inquiry into the methods by which psychologists throughout history have arrived at the conclusions of research equipping readers with the knowledge to accurately design and evaluate their own research and gain confidence in critiquing results in psychology research Particular attention is given to understanding methods of measuring the falsifiability of statements probabilities and the differing views on statistical inference An illuminating book for any undergraduate psychology student taking courses in critical thinking research methods BPS's core area conceptual and historical issues as well as those studying masters phd's and experienced researchers

The Social Psychology of Science
William R. Shadish, Steve Fuller, 1994-01-01 The social psychology of science is a compelling new area of study whose shape is still emerging This erudite and innovative book outlines a theoretical and methodological agenda for this new field and bridges the gap between the individually focused aspects of psychology and the sociological elements of science studies

Presenting a side of social psychology that until now has received almost no attention in the social sciences literature this volume offers the first detailed and comprehensive study of the social psychology of science complete with a large number of empirical and theoretical examples The volume s introductory section provides a detailed analysis of how modern social psychology might apply to the study of science Chapters show how to analyze science in terms of social cognition attribution theory attitudes and attitude change social motivation social influence and social conformity and intergroup relations weaving extensive illustrations from the science studies literature into the theoretical analysis The nature and role of experimentation are discussed as are metaanalytic methods for summarizing the results of multiple studies Ways to facilitate the generalization of causal inferences from experimental work are also examined The book focuses on such topics as interactions among small groups of scientists and the impact of social motivation influence and conformity on scientific work Also covered are scientists responses to ethical issues in research differences in cognitive style distribution creativity in research and development and the sociologists s view of the social psychology of science and technology In addition the book provides two annotated bibliographies one on the philosophy of science and the other on social psychology to guide readers in both disciplines to salient recent works Valuable to the entire science studies community this text will be of special interest to philosophers sociologists psychologists and historians of science interested in the nature of knowledge development in science Because of its novel application of social psychological theories and methods this book will be useful as a primary text or a secondary text in courses on science studies in psychology sociology or philosophy departments

Critical Appraisal of Physical Science as a Human Enterprise Mansoor Niaz, 2009-02-07 It is generally believed that doing science means accumulating empirical data with no or little reference to the interpretation of the data based on the scientist s theoretical framework or presuppositions Holton 1969a has deplored the widely accepted myth experimenticism according to which progress in science is presented as the inexorable result of the pursuit of logically sound conclusions from unambiguous experimental data Surprisingly some of the leading scientists themselves Millikan is a good example have contributed to perpetuate the myth with respect to modern science being essentially empirical that is carefully tested experimental facts free of a priori conceptions leading to inductive generalizations Based on the existing knowledge in a field of research a scientist formulates the guiding assumptions Laudan et al 1988 presuppositions Holton 1978 1998 and hardcore Lakatos 1970 of the research program that constitutes the imperative of presuppositions which is not abandoned in the face of anomalous data Laudan and his group consider the following paraphrase of Kant by Lakatos as an important guideline philosophy of science without history of science is empty Starting in the 1960s this historical school has attempted to redraw and replace the positivist or logical empiricist image of science that dominated for the first half of the twentieth century Among other aspects one that looms large in these studies is that of guiding assumptions and has considerable implications for the main thesis of this monograph Chapter 2

Hermeneutic Philosophy of Science, Van Gogh's Eyes, and God

B.E. Babich, 2013-06-29 perceptual essences that can be rendered directly manifest in perception with the help of theoretically structured instruments serving as readable technologies Scientific knowledge should thus be understood as an extension of unassisted perception A perceptual fact has an outer horizon which separates it from the ground on which it appears and an inner horizon composed of a multiplicity of possible perceptual profiles organized by an invariant essence The perceiving subject can bring forth a representative sample of the profiles in question occasionally by making use of certain technological processes which are themselves subject to interpretation in terms of theoretical representations The theoretical entities described in these representations are not simply detected thanks to an inferential operation but rather they are directly perceived It follows from this that the correspondence between the manifest image and the scientific image is not done one to one but by a many to one or one to many application between contextually defined perceptual objects within contexts that are mutually incompatible but complementary This should not however be understood as a form of conventionalism nor as a form of cultural relativism Pre comprehension which guides interpretation imposes strict limits to the descriptive categories which can be used and to the manner in which they can be linked to appropriate empirical objects The author applies his hermeneutic principles to the study of visual perception In fact this question is treated in the first part of the book

Making 20th Century Science Stephen G. Brush, Ariel Segal, 2015 Historically the scientific method has been said to require proposing a theory making a prediction of something not already known testing the prediction and giving up the theory or substantially changing it if it fails the test A theory that leads to several successful predictions is more likely to be accepted than one that only explains what is already known but not understood This process is widely treated as the conventional method of achieving scientific progress and was used throughout the twentieth century as the standard route to discovery and experimentation But does science really work this way In Making 20th Century Science Stephen G Brush discusses this question as it relates to the development of science throughout the last century Answering this question requires both a philosophically and historically scientific approach and Brush blends the two in order to take a close look at how scientific methodology has developed Several cases from the history of modern physical and biological science are examined including Mendeleev's Periodic Law Kekule's structure for benzene the light quantum hypothesis quantum mechanics chromosome theory and natural selection In general it is found that theories are accepted for a combination of successful predictions and better explanations of old facts Making 20th Century Science is a large scale historical look at the implementation of the scientific method and how scientific theories come to be accepted

Innovating Science Teacher Education Mansoor Niaz, 2010-09-13 How teachers view the nature of scientific knowledge is crucial to their understanding of science content and how it can be taught This book presents an overview of the dynamics of scientific progress and its relationship to the history and philosophy of science and then explores their methodological and educational implications and develops innovative strategies based on actual classroom practice for teaching topics such the nature of science conceptual

change constructivism qualitative quantitative research and the role of controversies presuppositions speculations hypotheses and predictions Field tested in science education courses this book is designed to involve readers in critically thinking about the history and philosophy of science and to engage science educators in learning how to progressively introduce various aspects of science in the making in their classrooms to promote discussions highlighting controversial historical episodes included in the science curriculum and to expose their students to the controversies and encourage them to support defend or critique the different interpretations Innovating Science Teacher Education offers guidelines to go beyond traditional textbooks curricula and teaching methods and innovate with respect to science teacher education and classroom teaching

Philosophy, Science, and History Lydia Patton, 2014-06-27 Philosophy Science and History A Guide and Reader is a compact overview of the history and philosophy of science that aims to introduce students to the groundwork of the field and to stimulate innovative research The general introduction focuses on scientific theory change assessment discovery and pursuit Part I of the Reader begins with classic texts in the history of logical empiricism including Reichenbach's discovery justification distinction With careful reference to Kuhn's analysis of scientific revolutions the section provides key texts analyzing the relationship of HOPOS to the history of science including texts by Santayana Rudwick and Shapin and Schaffer Part II provides texts illuminating central debates in the history of science and its philosophy These include the history of natural philosophy Descartes Newton Leibniz Kant Hume and du Châtelet in a new translation induction and the logic of discovery including the Mill Whewell debate Duhem and Hanson and catastrophism versus uniformitarianism in natural history Playfair on Hutton and Lyell de Buffon Cuvier and Darwin The editor's introductions to each section provide a broader perspective informed by contemporary research in each area including related topics Each introduction furnishes proposals including thematic bibliographies for innovative research questions and projects in the classroom and in the field

Magic, Science, and Empire in Postcolonial Literature Kathleen Renk, 2012-03-29 This book examines the ways in which contemporary British and British postcolonial writers in the after empire era draw connections between magic defined here as Renaissance Hermetic philosophy and science Writers such as Tom Stoppard Zadie Smith and Margaret Atwood critique both imperial science or science used in service to empire and what Renk calls imperical science a distortion of rational science which denies that reality is holistic and claims that nature can and should be conquered In warning of the dangers of imperical science these writers restore the connection between magic and science as they examine major shifts in scientific thinking across the centuries They reflect on the Copernican Revolution and the historic split between magic and science scrutinize Darwinism consider the relationship between Victorian science and pseudo science analyze twentieth century Uncertainty theories reject bio genetic engineering call for a new approach to science that reconnects science and art and ultimately endeavor to bring an end to the imperial age Overall these writers forge a new discourse that merges science with the arts and emphasizes a holistic philosophy a view shared by both Hermetic philosophy and recent scientific

theories such as chaos or complexity theory Along with recent books that focus on the relationship between contemporary literature and science this work focuses on contemporary British literature s critique of science and the ways in which postcolonial literature addresses the relationship between magic science and empire

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