

IMPROVING OUR WORLD VIEW THROUGH EPISTEMOLOGY

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We view the world through the filters of our scientific theories, our religious dogmas, and our cultural worldviews, and superimposed on these are the filters of our personal prejudices. We ask, is there some way to obtain an unfiltered view of the world, seeing it in its full richness free of the astigmatism of our conceptual constructs? For a totally concept-free view, the answer is no, since percepts and concepts are intimately interdependent and there can be no percepts without concepts. But there are some things we can do: For one, we may select alternative filters and by comparing the results arrive at a somewhat less astigmatic view. On the subjective side, this approach requires a strong measure of skepticism in the accuracy of every filter and a strong measure of belief in the value of all filters. It also requires the maturity to live with the realization that all views are imperfect and the "true view" is a will-o-the-wisp. On the objective side, this approach requires the availability of alternative filters. These are usually in short supply because one of our cultural dogmas is that alternatives are disquieting and should therefore be suppressed. Hence back to the attic to dust off epicycles, phlogiston, caloric, ether, Bohr atoms, cosmological constants, tired photons, and steady state universes. Back to the photo album to look at Gnostics, Monophysites, Arians, Manicheans, Pelagians, and cathars.

A second endeavor is to try to locate the hidden postulates and assumptions. After an assumption has been made for many years it becomes invisible and is accepted as belonging to the world itself. For example, Hubble took the doppler interpretation of red shifts as an assumption. Today it is dogma.

A third device is to go from linear causal patterns to multi-dimensional patterns. Whereas a missing link may derail a linear argument and block proof, even though pieces may be missing in a multi-dimensional pattern (as in a jig-saw puzzle) the picture may be discernable.

Fourth, look for broad patterns. Widen the field of view even if the resolving power must be reduced. Exceptions should serve to refine a generalization, not to preclude making it.

Fifth, employ the scan, select, zoom techniques of exploration. Technique 1) Select a field, scan it, select a portion of the field, zoom in, iterate. This is known as the reductionist technique. Technique 2) Select a field, scan it, select two (or more) portions, compare their zooms. This is known as the juxtaposition technique. Technique 3) Select a **Handwritten notes on back*

Technique of patterns washed out as in the first data

Data increases e.g. largest galaxies in clusters

divertization of EO's -> E a max size

This means E a correlation between a parameter is the date and a parameter in the original selection process e.g. the easiest to photograph

5. Selection Signification : Interesting, Important

6) Explore first without a map. All maps may be in error. Do not rush to the library. First, give the item your own Uninfluenced assessment. Then check with what others have done.

