

Introduction to Philosophy of Science

Siri Hettige,

University of Colombo

N. Weerasinghe,

University of Ruhuna

Philosophy of Science

- What is Philosophy of science?
- Why is it important?
- What are some of the important concepts?
- How does it relate to all science, including social science?

Introduction

- Philosophy of science is an area of study concerned with assumptions, foundations and implications of scientific research. It is a specialized area of philosophy which itself is a vast area study. In this session, we introduce the basic aspects of philosophy of science that young researchers should be aware of.

Basic Concepts

- Epistemology, Empiricism, positivism, Deduction, induction, Demarcation problem, hypothesis, Falsification (Popper), testability, truth and reality, a scientific paradigm (Kuhn), Science and religion, science and non-science, Sociology of knowledge.

Social Science

- Empiricism in social science
- Methods
- Theories
- Research

Discussion and Conclusion

Questions, issues and conclusions