

Science versus pseudo- science

Philosophy



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It may be particularly important to compare and contrast a science and a pseudo-science. A suitable example of the former is astronomy: it operates with a data which can be obtained by different probes and can be collected by people without any special equipment which can be used by everyone a researcher; people in different countries were able to come to same conclusions regarding astronomical phenomena; finally, it brings useful consequences for the world as with the help of its satellites are developed. Contrary to that, Astrology is a pseudoscience. To begin with, one might mention it relies on some vague set of data that can hardly be verified. Secondly, there are different astrological traditions in different countries. Finally, it may be useful only to create a horoscope.

Karl Popper would suggest that astrology will not be able to pass the test of critical rationalism as many of its fundamental principles may be easily proven wrong. In other words, its main postulates can not be found objectively true. Thomas Kuhn would argue that there has been no paradigm shift in astrology for a considerable period of its existence. This suggests that it hardly develops as a science and, therefore, can not be recognized as one. In addition to that, Imre Lakatos would also note that astrology should be classified as a pseudoscience as it makes novel predictions with regard to unknown phenomena, but fails to prove it with fact. As a result, any theory that is being advocated by it can not be verified by the evidence and is easily refuted.

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