

Philosophy Group: summary of meeting held 28th February 2023

At this month's Philosophy Group meeting we continued our consideration of science and the Scientific Method (Chapter 6 of Nigel Warburton's "Philosophy: the basics").

After a brief recap of the history of the philosophers concerned with the use of induction and deduction as the method for acquiring scientific knowledge, we moved into the 20th century and the work of philosopher Karl Popper. He developed the notion of 'falsifiability', a means of ensuring the validity of scientific theories and this remains a commonly used approach for scientists.

Thomas Kuhn's description of 'paradigm shifts', whereby the accumulation of anomalies and new ideas ultimately challenge dominant patterns of scientific work, allowing new patterns- or paradigms- to emerge provoked discussion, particularly in terms of the influence of certain individuals or 'old school' scientists.

'Scientific anarchism', the rejection of any fixed model or method for scientific enquiry proposed by philosopher Paul Feyerabend led to further debate and we concluded with a consideration of 'scientism'; whether science and the scientific method are the best or even the only way to the truth about the world and reality.

The answer to this may (or may not) be discovered in consideration of our next topics, beginning with 'the mind'...!

Philosophy Group next meeting Tuesday 28th March 2023 10am -12pm
Enterprise House, Harmire Enterprise Park, Barnard Castle DL12 8XT

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