

Scientism

Rationalism -- That there is an objective structured reality out there and our minds are structured in such a way as to be able to, comprehend, discern, and, or, read it, and not socially constructed.

The best way to understand reality is not necessarily by analyzing it. Thus, Subjectivism, understood though an idea that all value and truth is purely of a personal nature is at odds with Scientism, understood as any idea of truth which would deserve that name has to be empirically verifiable.

Modern science as an institution seems to be infected with both tendencies.

Science run amuck. "Whatever can be done must be done," "the devil's doctrine."

"It is in an important sense the ultimate effect of scientism to dissolve the absolute qualitative distinction between persons and things, reducing persons to things, denying man's rational soul and his transcendence, giving him a value no higher than an animal or a stone, or any other thing of nature."

Science is a valid subset of the rational method but it is not equivalent to it, nor is it identical to in without remainder, science derives its basic terms from the validity of the rational method itself such as the principle of non-contradiction, validity, meaning, purpose and obligation. All of these things are non-scientific phenomena.

Scientism, scientific materialism, reductionism, radical empiricism are some of the names it goes under.

The opposite temptation is "science defied." Richard Olson, a historian published a book entitled *Science Deified, and Science Defied* (1980's publication, University of California Press). One the one hand, we may say that scientific materialism, or scientism, is a false deification of science that cannot explain its own terms, or validate or justify its own rational methods which are not themselves scientific but from which the scientific method is derived.

A defiance of science seems to be a character taken on as a reactionary movement in many ways, that have roots very far back into history that was given especial impetus in and after the Romantic movement that was a very powerful tendency, trend, and development during the Romantic Movement which has reached a kind of critical mass in our own time in the movement of eco-feminism, and new-age spirituality, and that can be seen in the defiance of science.

Anthroposophist & mystics, a form of theosophy, a form of the Occult which is an abandonment of Aristotelian rationality that forms the spine of western culture.