



Figure 1.1 Social Scientists' Ratings of Whether Disciplines Are Scientific. Data from the author's 2020 survey of social scientists at major US research universities. $n=1,141$.

sciences: political scientists see psychology and economics as more scientific than their own discipline and anthropologists see psychology as more scientific. Averaging the five disciplines' responses, psychology is seen as the most scientific, followed by economics and then political science and sociology, with anthropology rated the least scientific (but still at the midpoint). Psychologists and economists have the most inflated views of themselves relative to how they view other social science disciplines; psychologists and sociologists have the most inflated views compared to how the other disciplines view them. Despite disciplinary rivalries and stereotypes, the social sciences largely see themselves in the same middle ground: no discipline thought of itself as more scientific than physics or biology and none thought of other fields as less scientific than history.

Social scientists also have relatively positive views of fields of knowledge that seek to investigate the scientific process itself. Figure 1.2 depicts their average rating on a 1–5 scale of the value of four metascience fields: philosophy of science, history of science, science and technology studies, and higher education. All four are rated above the midpoint on average, with science and technology studies rated the highest and history of science rated the lowest. Economists are the most negative about these fields, and anthropologists are the most positive. Every social science rated at least one metascience field above the middle point, even though the question specified its value to their own discipline.

Social scientists are cognizant that their disciplines are somewhat scientific and open to research on science itself. Most disciplines rated history and philosophy of science and higher education as valuable for their research even though they did not consider education, philosophy, and history themselves to