

PRIORITIES

Saturday

119.00

- The principal task of philosophy of science is to analyse the methods of inquiry used in the sciences.
- Philosophical reflection can uncover assumptions that are implicit in scientific enquiry.
- Suppose a scientist does an experiment and gets a particular result. They repeat the experiment a few times and keep getting the same result. After that, they will probably stop, confident that were the experiment repeated again under exactly the same conditions, the same result would obtain.
- This assumption may seem obvious, but as philosophers we want to question it. Why assume that future repetitions of the experiment will yield the same result? How do we know this is true? And if this is true, why it is true? Why the universe behaves in this way?
- Historically, scientists have played a key role in the development of philosophy of science. Descartes, Newton and Einstein are prominent examples. Each was deeply interested in questions about how science should proceed, what methods of enquiry it should use, and whether there are limits to scientific knowledge.

Sunday 28

- Karl Popper, an influential 20th century philosopher of science thought that the fundamental feature of a scientific theory is that it should be falsifiable.

wk	February 2024						
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wk	March 2024						
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