



WHAT IS SCIENCE FOR? WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY FOR?

NICHOLAS MAXWELL'S PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE AND DESCRIPTIVE PSYCHOLOGY

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Overview



- Maxwell's Argument
 - *A Terrible Schism*
 - *Aim Oriented Empiricism*
 - *From Knowledge to Wisdom*
- Maxwell's Directives in Action
 - *Leisure, Daydreaming, and Trullinger*
- Maxwell and Descriptive Psychology
 - *A Powerful Combination*
 - *Connections in My Work*
 - *Many Other Significant Connections*

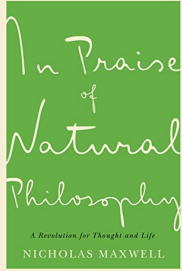
Notable Quotes



“... experiments are the *only* means of knowledge at our disposal. The rest is poetry, imagination.”
(Planck)

“Experiment is the sole source of truth. It alone can teach us something new; it alone can give us certainty.” (Poincaré)

“Science is simply the systematic accumulation of knowledge based on evidence.” (2016, President of the Royal Society)



Nicholas Maxwell



- A Terrible Schism
- Problems with “Standard Empiricism”
 - *Naïve Assumption: Accumulation of Facts*
 - *Impossible to Follow in Practice*
- Aim Oriented Empiricism
 - *All Empiricism IS Aim-Oriented*
 - *Acknowledge the Aim*
 - *The Best Aim: Wisdom*

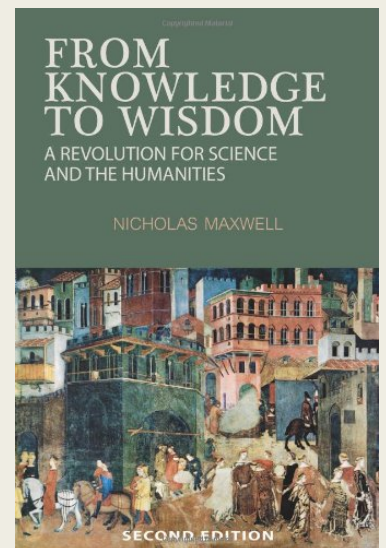
From Knowledge to Wisdom



- The Irrationality of the Academy
- Instead,

“How can our human world ... exist
and best flourish embedded as it
is in the real world?”

- *In Praise of Natural Philosophy*



Daydreaming

- Leisure as a Right (Trullinger)
- Daydreaming as a Kind of Leisure
- Build Our Political Imagination
- Resist Productivism
- Descriptive Psychology & Maxwell Can Help
 - *Conceptual Clarity*
 - *My Aim*
 - *A Directed Methodology*





Points of Contact



- The Schism
 - *Philosophy and Science Reunited*
 - *The Importance of Pre-Empirical Work*
- Science as a Rule-Governed Social Practice
- A Human Endeavour for Human Ends
- The Ethos of DP
- Other Connections?

