



Kuhn's 'Structure of Scientific Revolutions' at Fifty: Reflections on a Science Classic

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Thomas S. Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* was a watershed event when it was published in 1962, upending the previous understanding of science as a slow, logical accumulation of facts and introducing, with the concept of the "paradigm shift," social and psychological considerations into the heart of the scientific process. More than fifty years after its publication, Kuhn's work continues to influence thinkers in a wide range of fields, including scientists, historians, and sociologists. It is clear that *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* itself marks no less of a paradigm shift than those it describes.

In Kuhn's "*Structure of Scientific Revolutions*" at Fifty, leading social scientists and philosophers explore the origins of Kuhn's masterwork and its legacy fifty years on. These essays exhume important historical context for Kuhn's work, critically analyzing its foundations in twentieth-century science, politics, and Kuhn's own intellectual biography: his experiences as a physics graduate student, his close relationship with psychologists before and after the publication of *Structure*, and the Cold War framework of terms such as "world view" and "paradigm."

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Editorial Review

Review

"There is much that is new and intriguing in this diverse volume. Some chapters invite us "inside the head" of Kuhn, through personal memories of his unique pedagogical style, his letters and notebooks, and his "Aristotle experience."

Others explore how psychological theories, Kuhn's scientific work on radar during World War II, and the Cold War culture influenced Kuhn's philosophy. Still others focus on the text itself, examining how Kuhn redefined key concepts, including paradigms, revolutions, exemplars, and progress....Reflecting on the paradigm shift that Kuhn's influential book initiated gives us new insight into the current and future state of science studies."

(*Science*)

"Few books leave a wake like physicist-turned-historian Thomas Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. These essays on that classic, edited by science historians Richards and Daston, emanate from a 2012 commemorative conference. It's a scholarly treat, from George Reisch probing the cold-war roots of Kuhn's provocations on dogma, to David Kaiser tracing the experimental psychology in his philosophical claims."

(*Nature*)

"Contains well-written essays by significant historians and philosophers that provide critical discourse on groundbreaking work and offer new ways to contextualize Kuhn's own work. Along with fresh insight, a few essays provide personal recollections of Kuhn, while others make use of his correspondence and other records to examine the impact of the times (such as the Cold War culture) on his work. Some scholars delve into Kuhn's influence on disciplines like psychology and examine the notion of his idea of paradigms and scientific revolutions. Using citation indexes, other essays trace the historical frequency of *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. This edited volume is extremely valuable to advanced researchers in every area of academic study—especially for individuals examining any facet of the history of this type of knowledge. This work is highly recommended for research institutions."

(*Choice*)

"Kuhn's *Structure of Scientific Revolutions* is one of the most important books in the last hundred years. His language and concepts have permeated contemporary thought and his arguments are still alive and of real importance. What a great idea to have a fiftieth birthday for it! The selection of celebrants is top-notch, and, as is fitting, they are not simply kneeling at the feet of Kuhn, but critically engaging with his work."

(*Cheryl Misak, University of Toronto*)

"Thomas Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* is one of the most important and influential books ever written about the nature of science, directing the thinking of philosophers, historians, and above all social scientists. Celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its publication, *Kuhn's Structure of Scientific Revolutions at Fifty*, edited by leading science scholars Richards and Daston, does a splendid job of taking us from the genesis of Kuhn's book, through its immediate influences, and on to assessments of its lasting worth. For those interested in the nature of science, this collection is essential reading."

(*Michael Ruse, Florida State University*)

About the Author

Robert J. Richards is the Morris Fishbein Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Science and Medicine; professor in the Departments of History, Philosophy, and Psychology and in the Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science; and director of the Fishbein Center for the History of Science and Medicine, all at the University of Chicago. **Lorraine Daston** is director of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin and is visiting professor in the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Andrew Meadows:

Often the book Kuhn's 'Structure of Scientific Revolutions' at Fifty: Reflections on a Science Classic will bring one to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to see, this book very appropriate to you. The book Kuhn's 'Structure of Scientific Revolutions' at Fifty: Reflections on a Science Classic is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Terry Matlock:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the books. But also they write about the information about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some research before they write on their book. One of them is this Kuhn's 'Structure of Scientific Revolutions' at Fifty: Reflections on a Science Classic.

Daniel Starnes:

The book untitled Kuhn's 'Structure of Scientific Revolutions' at Fifty: Reflections on a Science Classic contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy technique. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read it. The book was published by famous author. The author gives you in the new period of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can available their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice read.

Richard Barbosa:

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got students? We believe that that concern was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby.

Therefore you know that little person including reading or as reading through become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important along with book as to be the factor. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your own teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update in relation to something by book. Different categories of books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is Kuhn's 'Structure of Scientific Revolutions' at Fifty: Reflections on a Science Classic.

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