

On the Interplay of the Cognitive and the Social in Scientific Practices

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Abstract

I consider the questions, central to recent disagreements between Longino and Kitcher: Is it constitutive of making judgments of the cognitive acceptability of theories that they be made under certain social relations (that embody specific social values) that have been cultivated among investigators (Longino)? Or is making them (sound ones) just a consequence of social interactions that occur under these relations (Kitcher)? While generally endorsing the latter view, I make a distinction, not made by Longino, between sound acceptance and endorsement of a theory, and argue that her view applies to endorsement.

Keywords: cognitive values, social values, transgenics, theory acceptance

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