

In Defence of Seeking Wisdom

Maxwell, Nicholas (2004) In Defence of Seeking Wisdom.

Full text available as:

[Microsoft Word](#) - Requires a viewer, such as [Microsoft Word Viewer](#)

Abstract

Steven Yates has criticized my claim that we need to bring about a revolution in the aims and methods of academic inquiry, so that the aim becomes to promote wisdom rather than just acquire knowledge. Yates's main criticism is that the proposed revolution does not have a clear strategy for its implementation, and is, in any case, Utopian, unrealizable and undesirable. It is argued, here, that Yates has misconstrued what the proposed revolution amounts to; in fact it is realizable, urgently needed, and involves exploiting the kind of strategies utilized so effectively by the philosophes of the 18th century French Enlightenment.

Keywords: Academic inquiry, wisdom, knowledge, value, politics, suffering, Enlightenment, science, rationality, methodology.

Subjects: [General Issues: Science and Society](#)
[General Issues: Ethical Issues](#)
[General Issues: Science Policy](#)

ID Code: 1866

Deposited By: [Maxwell, Nicholas](#)

Deposited On: 03 August 2004