

'Two as Good as One Hundred'--Poorly Replicated Evidence is Some 19th Century Neuroscientific Research

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Abstract

According to a received doctrine, espoused, by Karl Popper and Harry Collins, and taken for granted by many others, poorly replicated evidence should be epistemically defective and incapable of persuading scientists to accept the views it is used to argue for. But John Hughlings Jackson used poorly replicated clinical and post-mortem evidence to mount rationally compelling and influential arguments for a highly progressive theory of the organization of the brain and its functions. This paper sets out a number of Jackson's arguments from his evidence and argues that they constitute a counter example against the received doctrine.

Keywords: Keywords: Keywords: Hughlings Jackson, replication of evidence, 19th century neuroscience, Popper, HM Collins, epistemology of science.observation

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