

# The Science Subjectivity: Unraveling Who We Really Are

Have you ever pondered over the enigma of human identity and the essence of our existence? What makes us unique, and how does science shed light on the intricacies of our being? In this article, we embark on a captivating quest to explore the subjectivity of science and unravel the mysteries behind who we truly are.

Science has always been regarded as a discipline that reconciles facts and evidence to explain natural phenomena. However, delving deeper, we discover that science is not as objective as it initially seems. The subjective aspect is rooted in the human element, influencing research, interpretation, and the very questions we ask.

## The Subjectivity of Scientific Research

Scientific research is driven by human curiosity, ingenuity, and creativity. The choice of topics to study, the formulation of hypotheses, and the selection of experimental approaches all reflect the subjective nature of scientists themselves. Our personal beliefs, experiences, and cultural backgrounds impact the choices we make in pursuing scientific discovery.



## Mind-Body Problems: Science, Subjectivity & Who

**We Really Are** by John Horgan (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

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Furthermore, the interpretation of results can be subjective. Scientists bring their own biases, unconscious or conscious, when analyzing data and drawing s. These biases can influence the way findings are presented and can even contribute to the replication crisis, where studies cannot be successfully reproduced.

One might assume that objectivity is achieved through the scientific method, but it is essential to recognize the inescapable influence of subjectivity in research.

## **Beyond Genes: The Complexity of Identity**

Our genetic makeup has long been associated with our identity - the traits we inherit, the diseases we might be prone to, and even our predispositions. However, recent scientific advancements are painting a more nuanced picture.

The Human Genome Project, completed in 2001, marked a significant milestone in understanding the blueprint of our genetic code. Yet, it unveiled something astonishing - our DNA is not the sole determinant of who we are. Epigenetics, the study of heritable changes in gene expression, reveals that our experiences and environment can leave lasting imprints on our genes.

Epigenetic modifications can alter the way genes are activated or silenced, impacting our health, personality traits, and susceptibility to diseases. This interplay between nature and nurture showcases the intricate subjectivity underlying our identities.

## **The Social Construction of Reality**

Identity is not solely derived from within an individual - it is also shaped by the social, cultural, and historical contexts we exist in. The concept of "looking-glass self" proposed by sociologist Charles Horton Cooley suggests that our self-image emerges from our understanding of how others perceive us.

Throughout our lives, we form personal and collective identities based on shared experiences and interactions with others. These identities are malleable and evolve over time due to societal changes or personal development.

Furthermore, the influence of language on our perception of reality cannot be underestimated. Linguistic relativity, also known as the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, asserts that the language we speak shapes the way we think and perceive the world. Different languages have their own unique structures and vocabularies, influencing the concepts and boundaries of our reality.

## **The Quest for Objective Self-Knowledge**

If subjectivity is deeply ingrained in science and identity, how can we ever hope to truly understand who we are? The quest for objective self-knowledge requires a multidimensional approach that integrates science, introspection, and empathy.

Technological advancements such as brain imaging techniques have allowed scientists to delve into the neural basis of our thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. Studying our brains can provide valuable insights into the aspects of selfhood and what makes us human.

Nevertheless, introspection is equally significant. By turning our focus inward, we can explore our own subjective experiences, emotions, and cognitive processes.

Combining self-reflection with scientific knowledge can lead to a more comprehensive understanding of our individual identities.

Moreover, empathy and understanding others' perspectives can broaden our horizons. Engaging with different cultures, challenging our own biases, and actively listening to diverse voices can shed light on the vast spectrum of human experiences.

## In

Science, although grounded in evidence and rigorous methods, is not devoid of subjectivity. Our identities, too, are complex and multifaceted, influenced by a multitude of factors.

By acknowledging subjectivity in both scientific research and identity formation, we can approach these topics with a sense of humility and openness. Embracing subjectivity does not diminish the value of scientific knowledge or our understanding of ourselves, but rather enriches our journey of exploration and fosters a deeper appreciation for the diverse tapestry of human existence.



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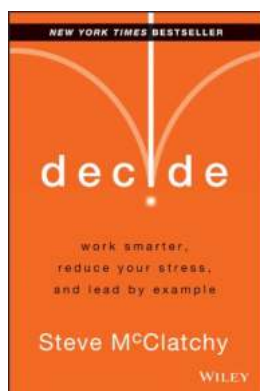
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Science journalist John Horgan, author of the bestseller *The End of Science*, *Rational Mysticism* and other books, presents an exhilarating new view of life's central mystery, the mind-body problem. In a narrow, technical sense, the mind-body problem asks how matter generates mind, but it's really about what we are, can be and should be, individually and as a species. For thousands of years, prophets, poets and philosophers have told us who we are, but their answers conflict. Modern scientists claim they are on the verge of resolving our primordial identity crisis once and for all by finding a single, objectively true solution to the mind-body problem. Horgan challenges this claim, arguing that our quest for self-understanding can have no final endpoint. His book weaves stories about leading mind-body theories and theorists into a compelling narrative about human freedom.



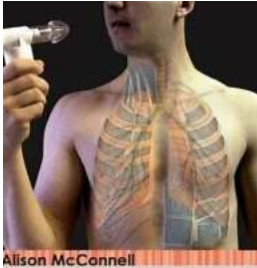
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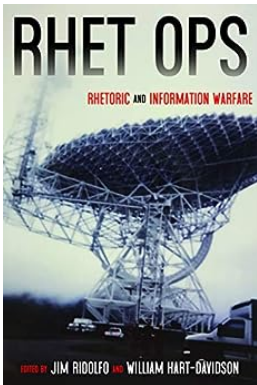
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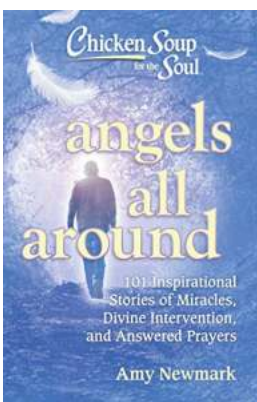
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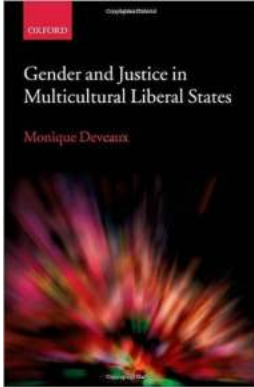
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