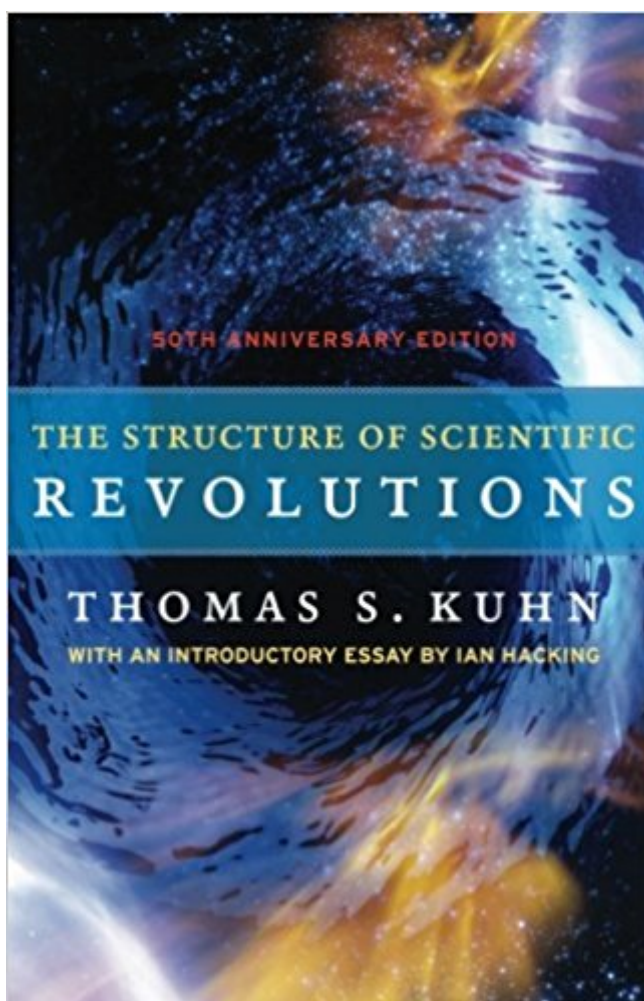


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The Structure Of Scientific Revolutions: 50th Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

A good book may have the power to change the way we see the world, but a great book actually becomes part of our daily consciousness, pervading our thinking to the point that we take it for granted, and we forget how provocative and challenging its ideas once were—and still are. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* is that kind of book. When it was first published in 1962, it was a landmark event in the history and philosophy of science. Fifty years later, it still has many lessons to teach. With *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Kuhn challenged long-standing linear notions of scientific progress, arguing that transformative ideas don't arise from the day-to-day, gradual process of experimentation and data accumulation but that the revolutions in science, those breakthrough moments that disrupt accepted thinking and offer unanticipated ideas, occur outside of "normal science," as he called it. Though Kuhn was writing when physics ruled the sciences, his ideas on how scientific revolutions bring order to the anomalies that amass over time in research experiments are still instructive in our biotech age. This new edition of Kuhn's essential work in the history of science includes an insightful introduction by Ian Hacking, which clarifies terms popularized by Kuhn, including paradigm and incommensurability, and applies Kuhn's ideas to the science of today. Usefully keyed to the separate sections of the book, Hacking's introduction provides important background information as well as a contemporary context. Newly designed, with an expanded index, this edition will be eagerly welcomed by the next generation of readers seeking to understand the history of our perspectives on science.

Book Information

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press; 4 edition (April 30, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226458121

ISBN-13: 978-0226458120

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 237 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,424 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Textbooks >

Reference > Encyclopedias #14 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Philosophy #14

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Customer Reviews

Like Thomas Kuhn, Ian Hacking has a gift for clear exposition. His introduction provides a helpful guide to some of the thornier philosophical issues. . . . We may still admire Kuhn's dexterity in broaching challenging ideas with a fascinating mix of examples from psychology, history, philosophy, and beyond. We need hardly agree with each of Kuhn's propositions to enjoy—and benefit from—this classic book. • (David Kaiser Nature) "The Structure of Scientific Revolutions did a gestalt flip on just about every assumption about the who, how, and what of scientific progress. . . . The book still vibrates our culture's walls like a trumpet call. History of science may not have become exactly what Kuhn thought it should, but The Structure of Scientific Revolutions knocked it off its existing tracks. • (Chronicle of Higher Education) "So long as there are still paradigms among us, the achievements of Thomas Kuhn will be remembered. • (National Post (Canada)) "One of the most influential books of the 20th century. . . . Singlehandedly changed the way we think about mankind's most organized attempt to understand the world. • (Guardian) "The Kuhnian image of science has reshaped our understanding of the scientific enterprise and human inquiry in general. If you haven't already read The Structure of Scientific Revolutions, the publication of this inexpensive 50th-anniversary edition offers a perfect excuse to do so. • (Science)

Thomas S. Kuhn (1922–'96) was the Laurence Rockefeller Professor of linguistics and philosophy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His books include *The Essential Tension*; *Black-Body Theory and the Quantum Discontinuity, 1894–1912*; and *The Copernican Revolution*.

First, let me state the obvious - since Kuhn is talking about the philosophy of science, this is not light reading. That said, this book is as relevant as it was when it was first published - perhaps more so. Kuhn makes a well-reasoned argument that science is not an objective search for "truth," as many people believe. Instead, "normal science" is a problem solving endeavor, solving known problems by known methods. Science only changes the rules by which it operates (its "paradigm" - that over-used and often misused term in contemporary language) only when the current paradigm causes more problems than it solves. This is the real answer to any from any field who say, "The science is settled. There is no room for discussion." Those who make that statement need to re-read Kuhn and come to grips with the reality that all knowledge is inevitably socially constructed. If you read this in graduate school, it is worth revisiting. If you have never read it and you are ready for some deep thinking, dive in. You will find your horizons expanded, and that is a good thing.

A most read book if you are interested in the history of science. Kuhn develops the concept of paradigmatic shift to explain new conceptual framework of observing the natural physical world due to revolutionary findings. The book was edited after Kuhn's death to celebrate its 50th anniversary. As a social scientist, I find Kuhn's theoretical explanation for explaining changes in the natural sciences very useful to explain shifts in how societies organize themselves in Republics with Constitutions, separated from religions. Democracy and confessional states are not compatible.

Remarkable book on the evolution of scientific investigation and what qualifies as good science and bad self serving agendas. The priority looks at the development of science history and scientific thought to what is legitimized by applied application. What is profound is the understanding that basic science has almost nothing to do with outcome or specific goal. The great theories are hard fought in the analytics of process and whimsy of stumbling insight that leaps ahead of what of once was thought the prevailing conservative view point.

A classic analysis of the evolution of science and the social, political and economic forces that determine the sustenance of "dominant" paradigms, the resistance to alternate ideas and the conditions that create paradigm "shifts" and revolutions! This treatise is as valid and useful today as it was when first issued, and students of science as well as practitioners would benefit from reading this book so that they never confuse paradigms with "truth" and never become ideologues who believe that scientific "truths" are unchanging.

Textbooks often and for good reason present the progress of scientific knowledge and discovery in very simple and linear terms. The historical reality is often much messier and as Kuhn argues requires a paradigm shift.

This book is the a must read for any one who is entering academia or any field that requires thought at all. This book may be merely about science, but its implications are both immediately evident and far reaching. I am a senior in high school who was recommended this book and I have to say it has completely changed my world view. Aside from the thesis, the writing is quite entertaining. Read this book no matter what it will not let you down.

excellent book - especially for people who want to get a hand on how a social change happens

Mr Kuhn well establishes what brings about revolutions in thought, how they are fought against, who fights against them and how they ultimately succeed if proven true. The mechanisms of this change works on major topics such as Newtons Laws as well on the minute detail of any detail such as the orientation of the eye pupil in hunters versus prey which was recently in the news. It matters not the size of the revolution, it will work the same way. Any student working on a Masters or PhD in any science ought to read this book for background.

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