

# **The Philosophy of Science is too Serious a Matter to be Left to Philosophers**

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## **ABSTRACT**

One might roughly say that there are two kinds of philosophy of science: that done by scientists as part of the process of elaboration of new science, and that done by professional philosophers (occasionally scientists turned philosophers) looking at science and contributing to philosophical literature. We shall give some quotations to illustrate the tensions between the two kinds of philosophy of science. It is desirable, in my opinion, that philosophizing about science should remain open to everyone, including laymen, theologians, and charlatans. Scientists should however not be intimidated by others: philosophizing according to their own rules about what they are doing is an important part of their scientific activity. As an example I shall analyze the evolution of ideas about chance and determinism from prehistory to the present day. I shall conclude with a discussion of the relations between mathematics and the human brain.