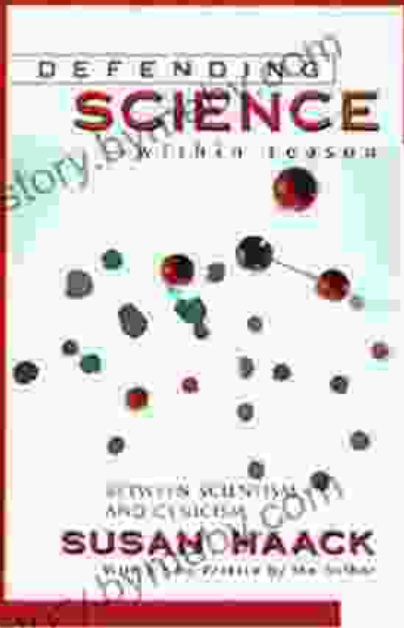


Defending Science: Protecting Truth and Progress in the Face of Denial, Fraud, and Pseudoscience



DEFENDING SCIENCE—WITHIN REASON

Between Scientism and Cynicism

SUSAN HAACK

WITH FOREWORD BY MICHAEL CROSBY
AND AFTERWORD BY THE AUTHOR

Swinging its scope, penetrating in analysis, and generously illustrated with examples from the history of science, this new and original approach to familiar questions about scientific evidence and method tackles vital questions about science and its place in society. Avoiding the twin pitfalls of scientism and cynicism, noted philosopher Susan Haack argues that, fallible and flawed as they are, the natural sciences have been among the most successful of human enterprises—valuable not only for the vast, interlocking body of knowledge they have discovered, and not only for the technological advances that have improved our lives, but as a manifestation of the human talent for inquiry at its imperfect but sometimes remarkable best.

This wide-ranging, firsthand, and illuminating book explores the complexities of scientific evidence, and the redoubtable ways in which the sciences have refined and perfected the methods of everyday empirical inquiry. It examines the ways in which the social sciences are like the natural sciences, and the ways in which they are not. It disentangles the confusions of radical relativism and cynical sociologies of science, exposes the evasions of apologists for religious resistance to scientific advances, weighs the benefits and the dangers of technology, tracks the efforts of the legal system to make the best use of scientific testimony, and fashions predictions of the eventual diminution, or annihilation, of the scientific enterprise.

Writing with verve and wry humor, in a witty, direct, and accessible style, Haack takes readers beyond the "Science Wars" to a balanced understanding of the value, and the limitations, of the scientific enterprise.


"A comprehensive defense of science... appropriately argued without resort to clichés—pleasantly proof!"
—**Jacques Barzun, former provost and Sells Low Professor of History Columbia University**

"Susan Haack is one of those rare contemporary philosophers I can read with pleasure!"
—**Steven Weinberg, Nobel laureate**

"A searching look at how science interacts with and is influenced by other areas of human endeavor... one thought-provoking discussion after another!" —**Publishers Weekly**

"Reading Susan Haack's book is to witness a truly, the best-headed appraisal of current issues and ideas, laid through the eyes of a widely informed and seasoned philosopher who explores the middle ground between jumping between, and to, the positions of a divided mind."
—**Gerald Holton, Amickron Professor of Physics and History of Science, Emeritus, Harvard University**

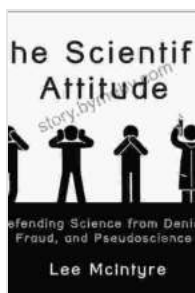
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About the Book

Science is under attack. From climate change denial to anti-vaccine campaigns, the spread of pseudoscience is threatening our understanding of the world and our ability to make informed decisions.

In *Defending Science*, Michael Shermer and Alex Berezow provide a powerful and accessible guide to the tools we need to identify and combat denial, fraud, and pseudoscience. They explain the scientific method, the nature of evidence, and the importance of critical thinking.



The Scientific Attitude: Defending Science from Denial, Fraud, and Pseudoscience by Lee McIntyre

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 844 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 276 pages
X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



Drawing on a wealth of real-world examples, Shermer and Berezow show us how to:

- Spot the hallmarks of denial, fraud, and pseudoscience
- Evaluate the evidence for and against scientific claims
- Communicate scientific findings effectively
- Defend science from its detractors

Defending Science is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the importance of science and its role in our society.

Authors

Michael Shermer is the founding publisher of Skeptic magazine and the author of several books, including *Why People Believe Weird Things* and *The Science of Good and Evil*.

Alex Berezow is a science writer and the executive editor of RealClearScience.

Praise for Defending Science

"A much-needed book that provides a clear and concise guide to the tools we need to defend science against its detractors." - Neil deGrasse Tyson

"Shermer and Berezow have written a timely and important book that will help us all to better understand and defend the scientific enterprise." - Bill Nye the Science Guy

"Defending Science is a must-read for anyone who cares about the future of science and the integrity of our public discourse." - Richard Dawkins

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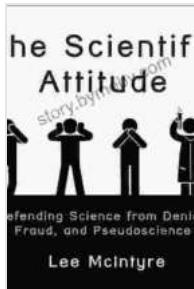
Defending Science is available now from Our Book Library, Barnes & Noble, and all other major booksellers.

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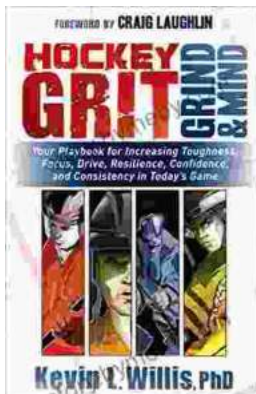
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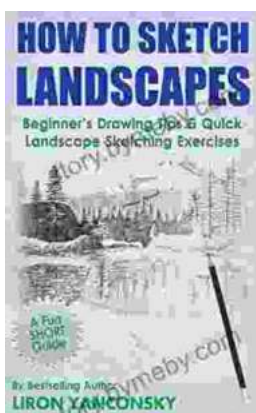
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