

INSTRUMENTALISM

“A Rorschach view of knowledge”

1. Knowledge is created in the mind.

- we do not know if it corresponds with ‘reality’.
- it is subjective: shaped by culture and history of the scientist.

2. Knowledge is useful, not true.

- all knowledge is relative. There are no absolutes.
- the test is pragmatism—is it useful?

3. Knowledge is perspectival.

- we can see things only from our own point of view.
- our observations change what we view.

4. Knowledge is paradigmatic.

- it is shaped by the worldview we bring with us.
- it cannot be exhaustive.
- change takes place by modifying our paradigm, or by paradigm shifts.

5. Disagreements create no conflicts.

- there are many ways to view the same thing, all of which may be right.