

PMU199Y 1st Assignment

28 September 2017

Shapin and Kuhn

SOME KEY IDEAS

- Science is a social activity; the "scientific method" is a poor approximation to how science really is done
- Statements about "metascience" by scientists should be ignored
- Science is driven by observations, reproducibility and theorizing
- Many reasons to be critical about how "science" is done, but can't criticize the pursuit of science or what it tells us about our world
- Kuhn's "paradigm" frame the way we understand "scientific revolutions" – observations that conflict with the current paradigm leads to "paradigm shifts"
- Not all discoveries cause paradigms shift

COURSE WORK

1. Presentations

The presentations will be done in groups (possibly groups of 2 if you like) throughout the year. They are intended to be no more than 10 minutes in length, followed by around 10 minutes of discussion.

2. Essays

The class assigned a short essay can focus on one of the issues identified at the previous meeting or one of the key ideas. These should be about 600 words in length and handed in electronically via email to Pekka.sinervo@utoronto.ca before the start of class.

3. Reminder: Quick Quizzes

We will have a quick quizz every other week starting next meeting. It will consist of six questions drawn from the readings that we are discussing the last two weeks.