

2016

Book Review: Philosophy of Science: Key Concepts

David B. Levy

Touro College, david.levy@touro.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://touro scholar.touro.edu/tcl_pubs

 Part of the [Philosophy of Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Levy, D. B. (2016). [Review of the book *Philosophy of science: Key concepts* (2nd ed.), by S. French]. *Choice Reviews Online*, 54(1).

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Touro College Libraries at Touro Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Touro College Libraries Publications and Research by an authorized administrator of Touro Scholar. For more information, please contact carrie.levinson2@touro.edu.

CHOICE *connect*

A publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries
A division of the American Library Association
Editorial Offices: 575 Main Street, Suite 300, Middletown, CT 06457-3445
Phone: (860) 347-6933
Fax: (860) 704-0465
September 2016 Vol. 54 No. 1

Bloomsbury Academic

The following review appeared in the September 2016 issue of CHOICE:

Philosophy

54-0148 Q175 2015-28292 CIP

French, Steven. **Philosophy of science: key concepts**. 2nd ed. Bloomsbury Academic, 2016. 227p bibl index ISBN 9781474245241, \$86.00; ISBN 9781474245234 pbk, \$24.95; ISBN 9781474245258 ebook, contact publisher for price.

In this clearly written, well-organized revision of his *Science: Key Concepts in Philosophy* (2007), French (philosophy of science, Univ. of Leeds, UK) provides a discussion that is cutting edge in terms of breaking discoveries. He synthesizes knowledge of entire scientific disciplines—physics, astronomy, genetics, biology, math, medicine, chemistry, paleontology, primatology, psychology, and so on—into a coherent, astute account of the whole, presenting the major philosophical concepts of "how science works." He looks at, among much else, how scientific theories are discovered; how they explain phenomena and reality; why, as Alfred North Whitehead said, one cannot know something unless one can measure it; what roles social and political factors play in scientific practice; whether science can ever be purely independent of its social context; the relation between truth, scientific theories, and scientific confirmation; how scientists come to grips with the uncertainty illustrated by the history of changing scientific theories; how social factors in general influence the objectivity of science; and how gender bias impacts science. The best introduction to date to the philosophy of science, the volume includes excellent suggested readings.

--D. B. Levy, *Touro College, Lander College for Women*

Summing Up: Essential. All readers.