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Book Review: Creatively Undecided: Toward a History and Philosophy of Scientific Agency

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Creatively undecided : toward a history and philosophy of scientific agency (/review/10.5860/CHOICE.209186)

Fisch, Menachem. (/search?exactauthor=Fisch, Menachem) Chicago, 2017

295p bibl index, 9780226514512 \$112.00, 9780226514512 \$37.50, 9780226514659 \$37.50

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This volume raises essential epistemological questions in a text poised to make a lasting contribution to the scholarly community. Fisch (Univ. of Tel Aviv, Israel) develops the opposing insights of philosophers Karl Popper (*Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge*, 1963) and Thomas Kuhn (*The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 1962). Fisch probes the question of how scientific theories change to develop a more complete theory of science as a rational endeavor. Ultimately, Fisch follows more in the footsteps of Kuhn, grounding his analysis on the understanding that in philosophy, questioning is the piety of thought. In considering how scientific theories evolve, Fisch further asks such questions as these: What is the role of ambiguity and indecision in this change process? How does the praxis of science depend on scientific frameworks? How can one decide when and how to reasonably replace one theory with another? How can a scientist be persuaded to accept a new paradigm? What role does outside criticism play in the process of perspective shifts leading to transformative self-criticism? Overall, this is a remarkable book on critical thinking and the philosophy and history of science.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

Reviewer: D. B. Levy (/search?reviewer=D. B. Levy), Touro College, Lander College for Women

Recommendation: Highly recommended

Readership Level: Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty

Interdisciplinary Subjects:

Subject: Reference - Science & Technology (/search?q=&sbj[]=rst)

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