

Reading list

The texts that I have selected as required reading provide a very brief background on the history of the philosophy of science, which is useful to know to understand the conventions and “unwritten rules” in academic research. Although most of the examples concern natural sciences, these ideas, concepts and discussions are relevant also for understanding the conventions in social science in general, and Economics in particular. I have assigned chapters from two textbooks. The book by Ladyman is a small, accessible book that provides explanation and context and gives examples, while the book by Bird and Ladyman (where I have assigned only one chapter) is an anthology that collects some original texts by thinkers that are considered important in the philosophy of science.

I would recommend reading the texts in the order assigned below.

The two textbooks can be accessed online via primo at the library’s web service (Aalto learning centre webpage).

The chapters listed as required reading are also accessible as pdf files here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/09gaj4quzwac1zv/AAB4gOrR3V0AWy3tS46MAANSa?dl=0>

1. Ladyman, J., 2012. *Understanding philosophy of science*. Routledge. Introduction
2. Ladyman, J., 2012. *Understanding philosophy of science*. Routledge. Part 1: The Scientific Method. Read the following texts:
 - a. Chapters 1-3: entire chapters
 - b. the following parts of chapter 4: Pages 148-158 and pages 185-190
3. Bird, A. and Ladyman, J., 2012. *Arguing about science*. Routledge. Introduction to Part 1
4. Bird, A. and Ladyman, J., 2012. *Arguing about science*. Routledge. Part 1, Chapter 1: text by Karl Popper (Note: section IV on Hume can be skimmed/not read in detail)

An additional useful resource that gives brief explanations to different important concepts in scientific thinking is:

Trochim, W.M. and Donnelly, J.P., 2001. *Research methods knowledge base* (Vol. 2). Macmillan Publishing Company, New York: Atomic Dog Pub. Especially the section “Philosophy of Research” (online textbook, available at link):
<https://conjointly.com/kb/philosophy-of-research/>

Your reading and understanding of these texts will be evaluated by one short quiz on MyCourses and one assignment to be submitted via MyCourses.