

**Science Wars and Peaces -
A Debate between Realism and Constructivism
over “How Science Works”**

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Abstract

The “Science Wars” are a very large public debate about the nature of science and scientific knowledge. The debate was first triggered by the Sokal Affair in 1996, and has lasted several years. Its image in mass media has been exaggerated as a war between science and the humanities.

The goal of this study is to understand the Science Wars: the debates over “how sciences work” between social constructivists and scientific realists. It contains five parts: 1. A brief history of the Science Wars: Providing an epitome of the debates from 1994 to 2002. 2. Multi-perspectives: Offering that the Science Wars aren’t a war between two cultures, but rather a forum with multi-perspectives. 3. The focus of the debate: how do sciences work at all? The representative literatures will be examined in detail. 4. An appraisal of rival arguments; 5. A model for the work of science: to search for a way out between social constructivism and scientific realism.

Key Words: Science Wars, Science Studies, philosophy of science, social constructivism, scientific realism