

Jean Piaget's Impact on Thomas Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*

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Abstract

This paper deals with Jean Piaget's impact on Thomas Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* from the viewpoint of intellectual history. Piaget is famous for his studies on genetic epistemology and Kuhn is well known for his work in philosophy of science. This question is, since they have different specialties, how did the former come to have an impact on the latter?

Through analysis of several of Piaget's and Kuhn's works, the author finds that the history of science plays a key role in this interdisciplinary. As a structuralist, Piaget was interested in children's cognitive structures, especially in their worldviews of different stages, the transitions between the stages, and in fundamental structures regulating and maintaining the change of worldviews. In the *Structure*, Kuhn examines on scientists' worldviews in different paradigms, the transition between them, and the essential structure of scientific development. The parallel between Kuhn's structure of scientific development and Piaget's cognitive structure of children, as well as Kuhn's usage of language similar to Piaget's, suggest that Piaget had a great influence on Kuhn's *Structure*.

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