

Kuhn's Later Intellectual Change and Notion of Scientific Rationality

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Abstract

After the second edition of *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Kuhn's views began to shift, leading to some confusion regarding his statements. This article has two main objectives: To clarify Kuhn's claim that "scientific rationality had to be ascribed to individuals" and to provide a reasonable explanation for the dramatic shift in his thinking later in life. From the perspective of the history of the philosophy of science, I will trace Kuhn's development from his early sociological focus on "the community as the agent" to his later move towards individualism and a priori philosophy. I will explain how he applied his unique notion of scientific rationality to individuals in his later years, demonstrating that this view aligns with a form of individual instrumental rationality. Kuhn's intellectual change, and his insistence on the individualization of scientific rationality, was not only a response to rationalist philosophical challenges but also a reaction to the strong programme in the sociology of scientific knowledge, particularly his opposition to its radical relativism in the 1970s.

Key Words: philosophy of science, paradigm, value, social psychology, sociology of scientific knowledge