

The Specificity of Feminist Philosophy

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Abstract: The article provides an overview of the issues and directions in the development of feminist philosophy of science. We put forward the thesis that feminist philosophy of science is a variant of social epistemology. We define the theoretical limits of the externalist approach in the study of science.

Keywords: philosophy of science, feminism, social epistemology, externalism.

INTRODUCTION

Feminist philosophy of science is currently actively positioning itself as a promising direction in science studies, whose rapid growth is leading to changes in traditional views across all areas of theoretical reflection on science—from its history to the development of strategies and policies in the field of science organization. However, in Russian philosophy of science, there have been virtually no attempts to provide a general assessment of this direction, to analyze the true novelty of feminist philosophy of science, to identify the specific perspectives on science that are possible from these positions, to outline its points of convergence and contradiction with other concepts of science, and thus to draw a conclusion about the place of feminist philosophy of science within the overall spectrum of science studies.

MAIN PART

According to E.'s assessment, Potter's main directions of the feminist approach in the philosophy of science are 1) identifying women's inequality in the field of scientific activity and studying the social causes of such inequality; 2) revealing the contribution of science to the establishment of women's social subordination; and 3) revealing the

contribution of the philosophy of science to the creation of the same situation. Thus, the key focus of feminist philosophy of science is social issues, shaped by its emergence within the broader framework of the feminist movement.

Feminist philosophy of science asserts that both overt and covert discrimination against women exists in science. Feminism explains the statistically significant data showing that men constitute the overwhelming majority of outstanding scientists throughout history by citing two circumstances. Firstly, throughout all this time, women had incomparably fewer educational opportunities. Women were only granted access to European universities in the 19th century and to postgraduate forms of education only in the 20th century. Secondly, the general androcentric attitudes of public consciousness have led to insufficient attention from historians of science to the contributions of women who engaged in scientific research as assistants to their husbands, fathers, and brothers.

Table 1. Notable Cases of Women's Underrecognized Contributions to Science

No.	Scientist/Contributor	Field of Study	Contribution/Discovery	Recognition Status
1	Marie Lavoisier	Chemistry	After her husband's execution, she published her own chemical research using his name.	Not recognized independently.
2	Caroline	Astronomy	Conducted	Later

	Herschel		significant astronomical observations	acknowledged but initially overshadowed
3	Marie Laurent (Pasteur's wife)	Microbiology	Conducted experiments when Pasteur was paralyzed	Contributions are mostly attributed to Pasteur.
4	Rosalind Franklin	Molecular Biology	Produced X-ray diffraction images proving DNA's double helix structure	Nobel Prize awarded to Watson, Crick, and Wilkins
5	Jocelyn Bell Burnell	Astrophysics	Discovered pulsars and hypothesized their nature	The Nobel Prize was awarded to Ryle and Hewish.

We believe that the unevenness of feminist reflection's successes across different areas of scientific knowledge is evident, despite declarations that position feminism as a philosophy of science in general.

CONCLUSION

Feminist philosophy of science is intriguing because it helps us identify specific factors that influence the development of scientific activity and refine our methodological conclusions; however, we must also consider the limitations inherent in these aspects due to the nature of scientific inquiry.

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