



What Is This Thing Called Science?

By Alan F. Chalmers

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Since its first publication in 1976, Alan Chalmers's highly regarded and widely read work--translated into eighteen languages--has become a classic introduction to the scientific method, known for its accessibility to beginners and its value as a resource for advanced students and scholars.

In addition to overall improvements and updates inspired by Chalmers's experience as a teacher, comments from his readers, and recent developments in the field, this fourth edition features an extensive chapter-long postscript that draws on his research into the history of atomism to illustrate important themes in the philosophy of science. Identifying the qualitative difference between knowledge of atoms as it figures in contemporary science and metaphysical speculations about atoms common in philosophy since the time of Democritus offers a revealing and instructive way to address the question at the heart of this groundbreaking work: What is this thing called science?

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Editorial Review

Review

Comments on the previous edition: This timely and valuable revision will do much to preserve What is this thing called Science? as the best overall introductory textbook in the philosophy of science available in the English language. The new chapters give an insightful and concise treatment of major developments in the field from the last two decades, in the same accessible and lively style that made the first two editions such successes. . . . I would recommend the new edition heartily. . . . --Hasok Chang, University College London

About the Author

Alan Chalmers is Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Sydney, where he has taught since 1971.

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