

Review of: "Further Chaos and Dysfunction in the Brickyard and the Systems That Support It"

Volodymyr Ratnikov

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This text can be qualified as a positive reaction to Forscher's earlier text from 1963, which, in turn, is devoted to the crisis state of science. As you know, the language of science, as well as its description involves operating with fairly clear concepts. However, unfortunately, the author of this text has problems with it.

First, a description of activities in science. The author continues to use Forscher's interesting construction metaphor. However, it is at least ambiguous to liken science to a brick factory. Especially if we take into account that the product of science is, first of all, new knowledge. Like Forscher, the author names scientists as "builders". But do they work at the brick factory itself? After all, according to Forscher, they are both brickmakers and builders at the same time!

Secondly, any metaphor, as you know, has its limits. However, the author's text is highly abstract. It has no connection with the real state of affairs in science. There is no single example of the "work" in the metaphor used.

Thirdly, the appropriateness of using the concept of "chaos" in this text raises doubts. The ambiguity contained in Forscher's text remained unresolved here. Whether this refers to methodological relativism, which harms science, or anti-scientific subjectivism, is also unclear.

Fourthly, we can agree with the author about the crisis state of modern science. However, he does not give reasons for this crisis, only referring to Forscher's arguments. A glut of facts-bricks, which, in my opinion, could be called the pragmatization of scientific activity, when efficiency and success are preferred to scientific truth? But after all, in a number of aspects, this crisis situation began to be discussed in the history of science from the end of the 19th century, on the way to "big science" (according to D. Price).

This text would greatly benefit if the author writing about science would use the experience of the philosophy of science. Indeed, in the latter, many models of the development of science have been developed that reflect more realistic aspects of scientific activity.