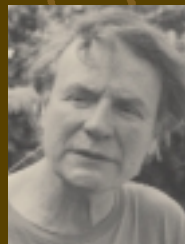


Working on a large canvas, *Science Unfettered* contributes to the ongoing debates in the philosophy of science. The ambitious aim of its authors is to reconceptualize the orientation of the subject, and to provide a new framework for understanding science as a human activity. Mobilizing the literature of the philosophy of science, the history of science, the sociology of science, and philosophy in general, McGuire and Tuchańska build on these fields with the view of transforming their insights into a new epistemological and ontological basis for studying the enterprise of science. Their study inverts an entrenched view of human practice and how it interrelates with the world. Instead of starting with the world's existence and asking how language represents it, they start with human practice and ask how the world reveals itself in it.

In this approach, McGuire and Tuchańska have combined work from both Anglo-American and Continental traditions of philosophy. As a result, the works of Popper, Kuhn, Quine, and Lakatos, as well as Heidegger, Gadamer, Nietzsche, Foucault, and Feyerabend, are called into play. In addition, *Science Unfettered* deals extensively with history and historicity, offering a theory of historicity of science as it emerges in sociocultural contexts.

Unorthodox in its approach, *Science Unfettered* articulates an alternative that views science ontologically as a "practice," a perspective from which traditional issues concerning the relationship of experiment to theory and the cognitive to the social, the relations between historical change and epistemic validity, and the meaning of "objectivity" can be addressed in a more fruitful way than is possible by starting with the traditional, ontological framework of subject and object.

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McGuire & Tuchańska

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