

Lakatosian retreat (cont.)

Hard core could be true or have high verisimilitude. Same strategy.

Monkeying with auxiliaries is hydraulic: Repair this falsifier, changes another derivation

Definition of 'hard core': Concepts? Statements?

More peripherals in social and biological sciences

Lakatosian defense justified because of track record

Bulletin style narrative summary of research hard to interpret

"Soft" fields (clinical, counseling, personality, school, community, social, developmental)

Correlation vs experimental manipulation with randomization of subjects

Correlational (non-experimental) data, relying on refuting H_0 , is domain considered here

But include experimental study of interaction with IDs (demographics, traits, status)

having crucial role as theory test

10 obfuscating factors: (a) sizeable, (b) variable, (c) opposed (countervailing),
(d) not accurately estimated

Meta-analysis is not for appraising theories; useful for interventions, technology

10 obfuscators:

1. Loose derivation chain
2. Auxiliaries, when stated, problematic
3. Ceteris paribus clause doubtful
4. Particulars C_n imperfectly realized

[Excursus: Referee dogmatism, quick dismissal. Science as skeptical, avoid superstition.
One failure to replicate, don't assume second try has to be the correct one.]

5. Inadequate power (Cohen)
Estimate degrees of freedom needed from pilot study
Power function

Obfuscators 1-5 tend to give black eye to good theories, of high verisimilitude.

Obfuscators working in other direction, tend to make poor theories look good:

6. Crud factor
In social sciences everything is correlated with everything
Lykken-Meehl study on crud factor (high school students, big N)
MMPI pool. 96% of 550 items discriminate gender
Two pots: Theories in one, facts in other; pair them randomly
Example: Crud factor → t-test significant