

Re: Epistemology 201: The Science of Science

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2005-03/7793.html>

From: Albert Wagner (*albertwagner_at_cox.net*)

Date: 03/22/05

Date: Tue, 22 Mar 2005 13:50:41 -0600

Dave Rusin wrote:

> In article <I8W%d.14972\$Fy.2664@okepread04>,
> Albert Wagner <albertwagner@cox.net> wrote:
>
>
>> *_MIND AND NATURE_*
>> *_A Necessary Unity_*
>> *by Gregory Bateson*
>>
>> *Chapter II EVERY SCHOOLBOY KNOWS*
>>
>> *9. NUMBER IS DIFFERENT FROM QUANTITY*
>> *Numbers are the product of counting. Quantities are the product*
>> *of measurement.*
>>
>> <http://www.oikos.org/m&nschoolboy.htm>
>
>
> *I wish it were true that every schoolboy knew this. If they did,*
> *they'd know that the opposite of "more" is "less" in the second*
> *case but "fewer" in the first case. Instead what I hear is*
> *"There are less people in class today than yesterday."*
> *I don't know what I did to the students yesterday, but I don't*
> *see that I made any of them any less of a person.*
>
> *It is not clear to me why you are pointing out that the natural*
> *numbers (sentence #1) and the real numbers (sentence #2 -- not #2.0 :-)*
> *are different sets of thing which can both be called "numbers".*
> *Haven't we moved well past that?*

It was for Tony.

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"I know that most men, including those at ease with problems of the greatest complexity, can seldom accept even the simplest and most obvious truth if it be such as would oblige them to admit the falsity of conclusions which they have delighted in explaining to colleagues, which they have proudly taught to others, and which they have woven, thread by thread,

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into the fabric of their lives." -
-- Tolstoy