

About Skepticism and Pseudoskepticism

Claus D. Volko, February 2018

A Skeptics movement also exists here in Austria. I once attended a lecture delivered by members of this organization.

There is a website that deals critically with the Skeptics movement. It says:

Genuine skepticism is a virtue in science. Unfortunately, some self-proclaimed guardians of science are committed to conventional taboos against psychic phenomena, despite many promising lines of evidence. Although they call themselves skeptics, they are in truth fundamentalists who attack any challenge to their beliefs, even if it means contradicting the core scientific principles of paying attention to evidence and keeping an open mind. They assume psychic phenomena cannot exist, and remain ignorant of the relevant research. They are pseudoskeptics.

My opinion on this is: I reject dogmatic materialism since I reject dogmatism in general, and I reject pseudoskepticism such as the one described here. However, I also reject the views of many of the people who reject pseudoskepticism since they usually have religious motivations. I am not a follower of any traditional religion. If I was supposed to declare myself in religious terms, I would be most likely to declare myself as being a theist who just happens not to follow any traditional religion.

Science is about the attempt to uncover truth. It will always remain an attempt with limited success, but an attempt worth making.

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