Positivism Only objective knowledge is reliable. Only scientific knowledge is objective. impartial indifferent

subjective knowledge/thought: state of mind / consciousness. disposition to act/behave objective knowledge: problems, theories, arguments

psychology: behavioristic, egoistic, selfinterested, pleasure-seeking

Physicalism mind = private black box; thoughts, feelings, sensations are incommunicable

disinterested

Scientific attitude

neutral

detached

independent of attitudes, values, subjective states, human mind

Objectivity requires view from nowhere, which reveals things as they are

Scientific knowledge, its sharing and verification depend on a specific form of **subjectivity: indifference**; it is **not** attitude-independent.

- a) is from somewhere
- b) comes with a subjective attitude.

Allows knowing things and persons only as observable physical objects. No other intersubjective knowledge is available (the mind is a black box).

hate

other forms of subjectivity

characteristic of

everyday life,

involve

preferences and

feelings, taking a

stand

love

Scientific knowledge, is objective & thus partial.

disinclination & strife

non-conducive to knowing, produces & reinforces prejudice & false beliefs, disfigures

facts

inclination & unity

> yields defeasible knowledge that exceeds what observation reports could

interactively and relationally

capture

We do know more, both in scientific and everyday practice!

testimony •

teaching of

theory

requires communicating thoughts

indifferent stance essential to science

requires communicating attitudes

Get Real! Be Rational!

Enables overcoming separateness between humans (responding to deeply rooted human need) & (ideally) provides full knowledge of persons as (individual) persons, as ends in themselves, not as objects or means.

Full knowledge doesn't matter, benevolent and open attitude does.

experiences distinction is just mistaken. We do share mental concepts (albeit imperfectly).

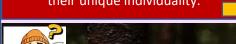
The positivist

public objects /

private



Enables knowing objects not as persons (strictly speaking), but in their unique individuality.



Check out this tree. bro! I mean, LOOK, seriously! You've got to LOVE this tree! (How could you not?)

This too, can be communicated, shared, debated...

> Derivative, personal, nonobjective knowledge of natural objects



There is scientific, objective knowledge and there are other kinds of [full and universal] nonobjective, inter-subjective knowledge.

Non-tautological, non-empirical, nonobservational, morally meaningful ethical knowledge.

Just as scientific knowledge depends on the shared attitude of indifference, ethical knowledge depends on a consensus that rational beings reach if they share a loving attitude of affective engagement.



(recommended)



Ramanuja, Plato, Buddhaghosa