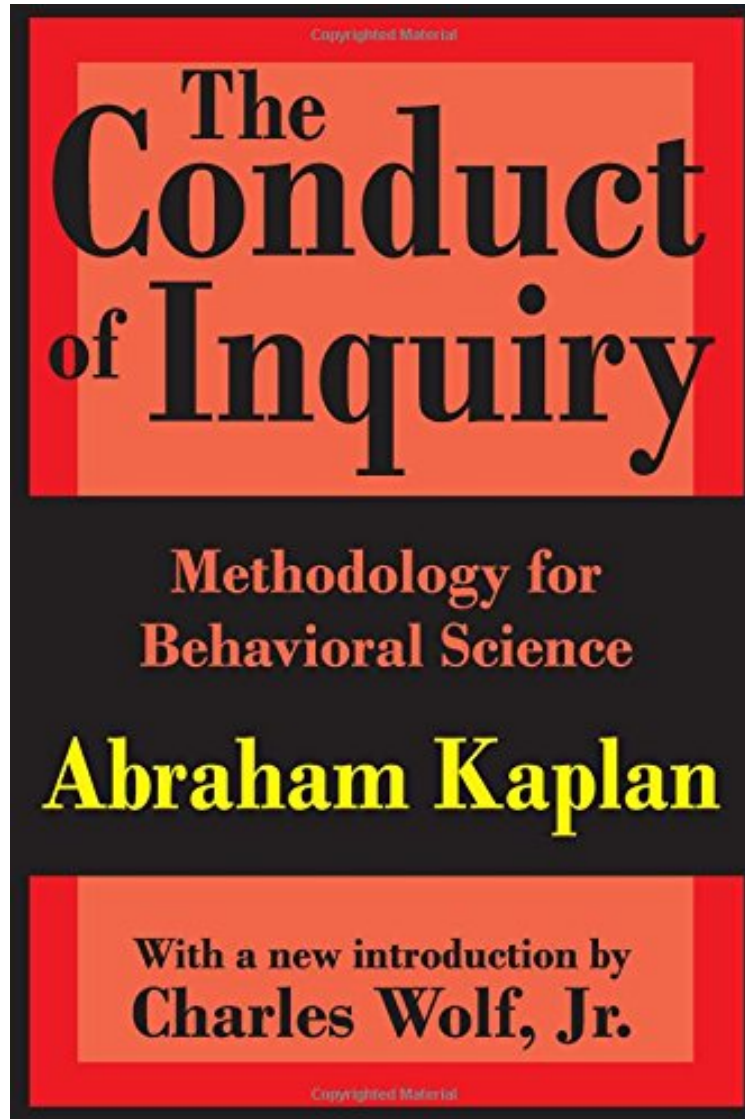


[Ebook free] The Conduct of Inquiry: Methodology for Behavioural Science

The Conduct of Inquiry: Methodology for Behavioural Science

From Brand: Transaction Publishers
*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



[Download](#) [Read Online](#)

#1205978 in Books Transaction Publishers 1998-05-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x 1.01 x 5.981, 1.61 #File Name: 0765804484452 pages | File size: 35.Mb

From Brand: Transaction Publishers : The Conduct of Inquiry: Methodology for Behavioural Science before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Conduct of Inquiry: Methodology for Behavioural Science:

0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very useful for the techy studentBy claudettesadmy son got this book to assist in his Comp Sci studies, and he is now very happy with this textbook5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Helpful as philosophy of science. Very old school view of behavioral science methods.By FlynnenglishStrengths: I have not seen another book that integrates discussion of methods and philosophy of science to

this degree. It is notable that his focus is on inquiry in the behavioral science since philosophy of science often attends more to physics. Weaknesses: This book has significant limitations in terms of illuminating social science methodology. The author has a very narrow conception of causation and generalizability. For example, he addresses experiments, but not quasi-experiments or more sophisticated causal modeling techniques. The section on validity makes no mention of Donald Campbell's contributions. Lee Cronbach is not cited at all. There is no mention of Bayes. I find it curious that Kaplan devotes so much attention to laws since he is interested in social science inquiry where laws are scant. Possibly the philosophy of science content has more value than the methodology sections--I am less familiar with that literature. 19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Heavy reading, but incredibly rewarding. By Alamanach This book was recommended to me by a friend, a retired lawyer, just a few years before he died. He was very well-read, moreso than you'd imagine a lawyer to be, and he used to rave about what an incredible book this had been. He was very much an intellectual, and this had been perhaps the most influential book in his intellectual life's journey. When I finally sat down with it, I understood why. Forgive me for using the word so often, but Kaplan, too, is (was?) an intellectual, and of the very first rank. In this book, he dissects the scientific process, with his focus being on the social sciences. His discussion is general enough that pretty much everything he says applies just as well to the hard sciences, too. The ideas he puts forward can be mind-blowing if you haven't encountered them before; facts do not relate to real quantities because our metrics are all made up, and theories are valued for being useful, not for being true. There is more that he says as well, but it has been some years since I've read the book, and I don't have it available to me right now. (When I saw had no review for this book, I decided I'd ought to weigh in anyway.) This book is not light reading. Kaplan is an old master, sharing the wisdom that comes only after a lifetime of work in one's field. Also, he has a vocabulary that could be described as "Buckleyesque", and he doesn't hold back with it. You will want to have a dictionary handy when you read this book. (You're laughing at me now, but wait until you start Chapter 1.) Did I mention this is an excellent book? It has become one of the most influential works in my own intellectual journey (Up there with Hofstadter's "Godel, Escher, Bach" and Miles's "GOD; A Biography"), and I rather wish I could talk with my old friend again, to tell him how much I appreciated his recommendation. (I'm giving it a star rating only because requires me to; if you don't want to read something heavy and thoughtful, then you should avoid this book. But for that matter, if you want what's in this book, then you should avoid Shakespeare. Should I give Shakespeare two stars?)

In arguably the finest text ever written in the philosophy of social science, Abraham Kaplan emphasizes what unites the behavioral sciences more than what distinguishes them from one another. Kaplan avoids the bitter disputes among people doing methodology, claiming instead that what is important are those qualities intrinsic to the overall aspirations of the social sciences. He deals with special problems of various disciplines only so far as may be helpful in clarifying the general method of inquiry. *The Conduct of Inquiry* is a systematic, rounded, and wide-ranging inquiry into behavioral science. Kaplan is guided by the experience of sciences with longer histories, but he is bound neither to their problems nor to their solutions. Instead, he addresses the methodology of behavioral science in the broad sense of both method and science. The work is not a formal exercise in the philosophy of science but rather a critical and constructive assessment of the developing standards and strategies of contemporary social inquiry. He emphasizes the tasks, achievements, limitations, and dilemmas of the newer disciplines. Philosophers of science usually choose to write about the most fully developed sciences because problems are clearer there. The result is ordinarily of little benefit to the behavioral scientist, whose task is clarification of method; here the precedents and analogies of physical science are obscure or inappropriate. *The Conduct of Inquiry* goes a long way in drawing upon the strengths of social research insights without simplifying the common concerns of the scientific enterprise as a whole. As Leonard Broom noted when the book initially appeared: "Kaplan fills a gap and does so with admirable clarity and often engaging wit. It lacks pomposity, pedantry, and pretension, and it is bound to make an impact on the teaching of and, with luck, research in the behavioral sciences."

About the Author Abraham Kaplan (1918-1993) taught at RAND Graduate School, Harvard University, and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He is widely published, and is perhaps best known for *Power and Society*, co-authored with Harold D. Lasswell. Charles Wolf, Jr. is distinguished chair in international economics and senior economic adviser at the Rand Corporation. In addition he is senior research fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and is on the advisory board of the Center for International Business and Economic Research at the University of California-Los Angeles Anderson School of Management. Some of his writings include *Enhancement by Enlargement: The Proliferation Security Initiative*; *Modernizing the North Korean System: Objectives, Method, and Application*; and *Public Diplomacy: How to Think About and Improve It*.