

Because of this fancied independence of values, standards of worth become steadily more blurred. If means-centering philosophies were extreme (which they rarely are), and if they were quite consistent (which they dare not be for fear of obviously foolish consequences), there would be no way to distinguish between an important experiment and an unimportant one. There could be only technically well-prosecuted experiments and technically poorly prosecuted experiments.⁴ Using only methodological criteria, the most trivial research could demand as much respect as the most fruitful one. Of course, this does not actually happen in an extreme way, but this is only because of appeal to criteria and standards other than methodological ones. However, although this mistake is rarely seen in a blatant form, it *is* often enough seen in a less obvious form. The journals of science are full of instances that illustrate the point, that what is not worth doing is not worth doing well.

If science were no more than a set of rules and procedures, what difference would there be between science on the one hand, and on the other, chess, alchemy, "umbrellaology," or the practice of dentistry?⁵

Motivation and Personality

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