

Theory-ladenness: Testing the untestable?

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In this talk, I propose a way to experimentally test the thesis that observation is theory-laden. My proposal seeks to create conditions that compel test subjects with diverse theoretical backgrounds to resort to bare (or at least as bare as possible) observational judgments. Thus, if judgments made under those conditions are convergent across test subjects, the said convergence would lend credibility to the view that theory-neutral observations are feasible. This still leaves the question of why any such convergence exists unanswered. Towards the end of the talk, it is argued that the best explanation for observational judgment convergence is the veridicality of those judgments.