

# PERSPECTIVES ON SCIENCE AND CULTURE

*Kris Rutten, Stefaan Blancke, and Ronald Soetaert (eds.)*

Edited by Kris Rutten, Stefaan Blancke, and Ronald Soetaert, *Perspectives on Science and Culture* explores the intersection between scientific understanding and cultural representation from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Contributors to the volume analyze representations of science and scientific discourse from the perspectives of rhetorical criticism, comparative cultural studies, narratology, educational studies, discourse analysis, naturalized epistemology, and the cognitive sciences. The main objective of the volume is to explore how particular cognitive predispositions and cultural representations both shape and distort the public debate about scientific controversies, the teaching and learning of science, and the development of science itself. The theoretical background of the articles in the volume integrates C. P. Snow's concept of the two cultures (science and the humanities) and Jerome Bruner's confrontation between narrative and logico-scientific modes of thinking (i.e., the cognitive and the evolutionary approaches to human cognition).

## REVIEWS

"Rutten, Blancke, and Soetaert's volume is a wonderful achievement. Drawing together scholars of rhetoric, culture, cognitive science, and epistemology, each chapter offers intriguing insights into the discourse structures, cultural representations, and psychological tendencies that can impede public understanding of science. In an age where ignorance about the science of anthropogenic climate change and evolution grows ever more costly, this important volume could not be more timely. Its clarion call for consilience between the sciences and humanities is profoundly welcome."

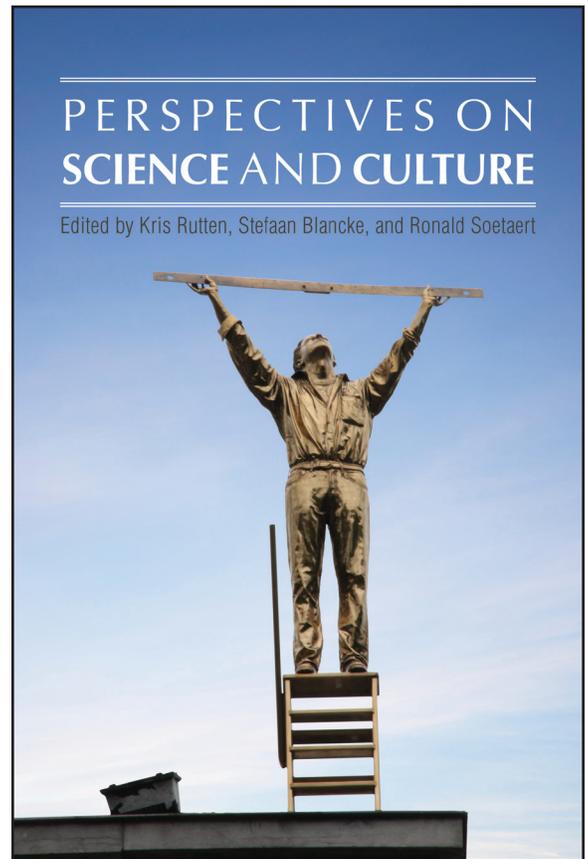
—**DEBORAH KELEMEN**, Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Boston University

"This is a fascinating interdisciplinary collection exploring the tensions between what C. P. Snow famously called the 'two cultures' of science and the humanities, at the same time very positively showing how themes and methods from philosophy, history, literature studies, and much more can lead to a deeper understanding both of science and of the culture that produced it. It is very well worth reading."

—**MICHAEL RUSE**, Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor and Director of HPS Program, Florida State University

## KEY POINTS

- Delivers an interdisciplinary analysis of the intersection of scientific understanding and cultural representation.
- Couches perspectives in the work of C.P. Snow and Jerome Bruner.
- Comprises work from leading scholars in rhetorical criticism, comparative cultural studies, narratology, educational studies, discourse analysis, naturalized epistemology, and the cognitive sciences.



## Social Science

Pb, 978-1-55753-797-3 • E-book available  
308 pages • February 2018 • 6 × 9 • \$45.00

*Comparative Cultural Studies*

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**RONALD SOETAERT** is a professor emeritus in the Department of Educational Studies of Ghent University, where he taught courses on language and literature teaching, cultural studies, culture, media, and education. Soetaert's ongoing research focuses on education, culture, and media, with a special interest in the rhetorical and narrative turn.