

Lecture • Friday, April 5, 2024 • Noon



Dan Hicks (UC Merced)

“Defusing the Democracy Defense: Scientists as Epistemic Representatives”



For decades, traditional notions of objectivity and ideals of politically neutral, "value-free" science have been challenged by history, philosophy, and social studies of science that argue that science is unavoidably "shot through with values." Some have pushed back, arguing that accepting value-laden science would allow scientists to undemocratically impose their values on everyone else. Hicks shows that the theory of political representation is promising for thinking about when and how the judgment of a select few can democratically represent the general public, arguing that we can think of scientists as epistemic representatives, more or less the way politicians serve as political representatives.

Center for Dewey Studies • Morris Library Basement, Room 0044

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