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New book makes history of scientific knowledge accessible to general readers

PITTSBURGH—*Styles of Knowing: A New History of Science from Ancient Times to the Present* is a very readable and innovative introduction to scientific change which can be enjoyed by students, historians and general readers alike.

Written by Chunglin Kwa and first published in Dutch, *Styles of Knowing* has just been translated into English. In a 2006 review of the original version, the journal *Isis* said the book “deserves a much wider audience than those who are able to understand the Dutch language.”

Kwa explores the development of various scientific reasoning processes in a cultural-historical context. Influenced by historian Alistair Crombie’s *Styles of Scientific Thinking in the European Tradition*, Kwa organizes his book according to six distinct styles: deductive, experimental, analytical-hypothetical, taxonomic, statistical, and evolutionary.

Instead of featuring individual scientific disciplines in different chapters, each chapter explains the historical applications of each style’s unique criterion for good science. Kwa shows also how styles have influenced each other and transformed over time. In a chapter written especially for American audiences, Kwa examines how changes in engineering and technology during the twentieth century affected the balance among the various styles of science.

“Kwa has written not only a fine introduction to the history of science, he has used the concept of ‘style’ to illuminate modes of scientific rationality and current threats to freedom of inquiry. A most impressive achievement,” said Harold J. Cook at Brown University.

Kwa is a lecturer in Science and Technology Studies at the University of Amsterdam. He teaches courses in history of science, philosophy of science, and on sustainable development in relation to the environmental sciences. He served as editor of *EASST Review* from 1991 to 2006.

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Styles of Knowing: A New History of Science from Ancient Times to the Present by Chunglin Kwa will be published by the University of Pittsburgh Press in the summer of 2011 • 448 pp. • 6 x 9 • ISBN 978-0-8229-6151-2 • Paper \$27.95