

On the phenomenon of pseudoscience, its characteristic features and typology

A.A. Lisitsyna

It is considered the phenomenon of pseudoscience, essential characteristics of pseudoscientific concepts and ideas, existent approaches to the definition of pseudoscience, the question of the typology of its varieties. The characteristic features of pseudoscientific concepts, typical methodological tricks of pseudoscience are presented. It is distinguished the concepts of pseudoscience and extra-scientific knowledge. It is shown that the latter is broader in meaning and also includes types of knowledge belonging to other spheres of human culture — ordinary-practical, artistic knowledge, etc. An updated definition of pseudoscience as a heterogeneous phenomenon is presented, which is an activity or teaching that pretends to be considered scientific, but does not meet the criteria of science in its purposes, objective or method, being essentially an imitation of scientific activity or scientific theories. It is proposed to distinguish four types of pseudoscience — quasi-science, false science, pseudoscientific mythology and scientific falsifications. Criteria are indicated by which scientific theories can be distinguished from pseudoscientific concepts.

Keywords: science, pseudoscience, false science, quasi-science, world picture, the problem of demarcation, scientific criteria

References

1. Волькенштейн М.В. О феномене псевдонауки // Природа. 1983. № 11.
2. Дынич В.И., Ельяшевич М.А., Толкачев Е.А., Томильчик Л.М. Вненаучное знание и современный кризис научного мировоззрения // Вопросы философии. 1994. № 12.
3. Корочкин Л.И. Неолысенковщина в Российской биологии // Бюллетень «В защиту науки». 2008. № 3.
4. Леглер В.А. Наука, квазинаука, лженаука // Вопросы философии. 1993. № 2.
5. Мигдал А.Б. Отличима ли истина от лжи? // Наука и жизнь. 1982. № 1.
6. Наука и квазинаука / Под ред. В.М. Найдыша. М., 2008.
7. Поппер К. Логика научного исследования. М., 2004.
8. Стёпин В.С. Наука и лженаука // Наукоедение. 2000. № 1.
9. Тихоплав В.Ю., Тихоплав Т.С. Физика веры. СПб., 2002.
10. Филатов В.П. Научное познание и мир человека. М., 1989.