

A Tale of Two Ideals: Values and Idiosyncrasy in Science

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I argue that the term 'value-free ideal' has been used ambiguously to refer to two distinct scientific ideals. This ambiguity has sown confusion within prominent debates, such as those about inductive risk; only if we distinguish the two ideals can we properly assess many of the arguments from these debates. Drawing on work in the history of science, I demonstrate that each ideal reflects distinct conceptions of objectivity and provides distinct grounds for trust in science: debates over scientific ideals are part and parcel of broader historical debates about what counts as legitimate science.