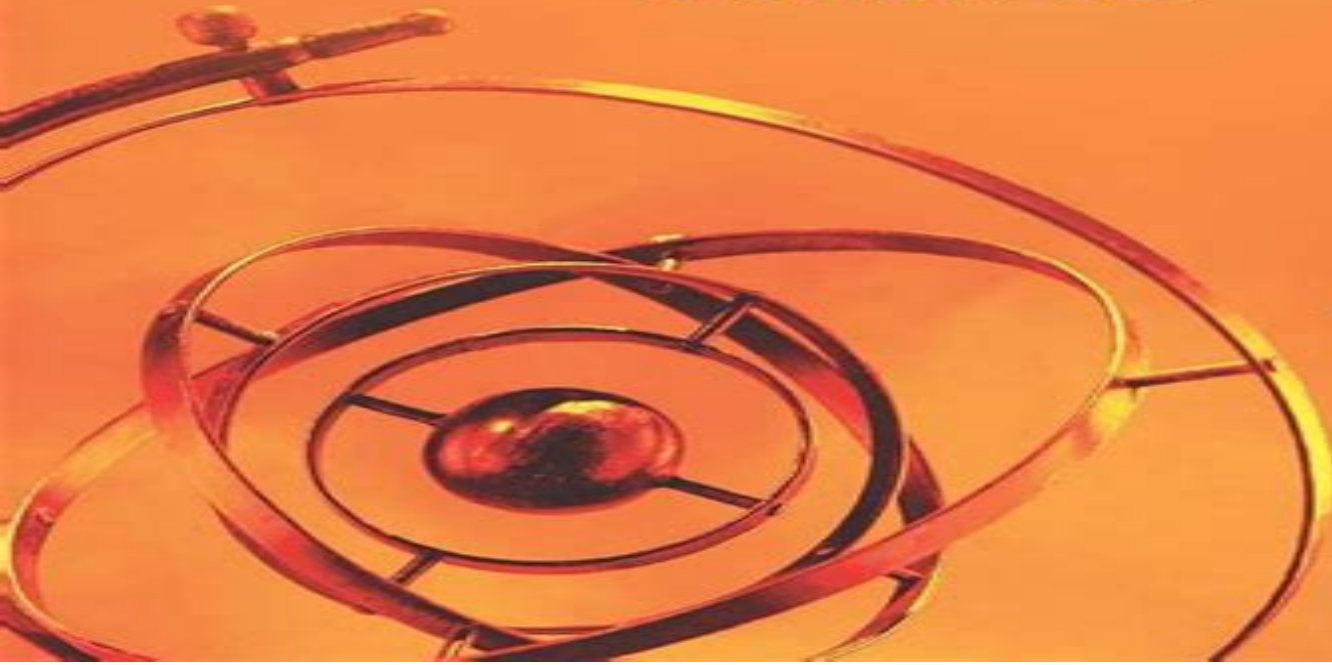


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VITAL QUESTIONS ABOUT
SCIENCE

*KEITH
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Keith Parsons



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Just as intelligent design is not a legitimate branch of biology in public educational institutions nor should the philosophy of religion be a legitimate branch of philosophy So argues acclaimed author John W Loftus in this forceful takedown of the very discipline in which he was trained In his call for ending the philosophy of religion he argues that as it is presently being

practiced the main reason the discipline exists is to serve the faith claims of Christianity Most of philosophy of religion has become little more than an effort to defend and rationalize preexisting Christian beliefs If subjects such as biology chemistry physics and geology are all taught without reference to faith based supernatural forces as explanations faith based teachings should not be acceptable in this discipline either While the book offers a fascinating study of the fallacies and flaws on which one whole field of study rests it speaks to something much larger in the ongoing culture wars By highlighting the stark differences between faith based reasoning and evidence based reasoning Loftus presents vital arguments and lessons about the importance of critical thinking not only in all aspects of study but also in life His conclusions and recommendations thus resonate far beyond the ivory towers and ivy covered walls of academic institutions *Science Wars* Keith Parsons,2003-02

Is science our most precious possession or has our culture elevated science into a false idol Is technology a useful servant or a malign genie These questions are at the centre of the science wars currently being waged over the role and future of science and technology in our society This balanced selection of a variety of perspectives on the hotly contested role of science and technology in contemporary society will clarify this vital debate for both specialists and non specialists It Started with Copernicus Howard Margolis,2002 Publisher Description **The Copernican Question** Robert Westman,2020-04-21

In 1543 Nicolaus Copernicus publicly defended his hypothesis that the earth is a planet and the sun a body resting near the center of a finite universe But why did Copernicus make this bold proposal And why did it matter The Copernican Question reframes this pivotal moment in the history of science centering the story on a conflict over the credibility of astrology that erupted in Italy just as Copernicus arrived in 1496 Copernicus engendered enormous resistance when he sought to protect astrology by reconstituting its astronomical foundations Robert S Westman shows that efforts to answer the astrological skeptics became a crucial unifying theme of the early modern scientific movement His interpretation of this long sixteenth century from the 1490s to the 1610s offers a new framework for understanding the great transformations in natural philosophy in the century that followed *Copernicus' Secret* Jack Repcheck,2009 Nicolaus Copernicus gave the world perhaps the most important scientific insight of modern era the theory that the earth and the other planets revolve around the sun He was also the first to proclaim that the earth rotates on its axis once every 24 hours He was a true radical of this time Despite being a genius of the early Renaissance he was also a flawed and conflicted person A cleric who lived during the tumultuous years of the early Reformation he may have been sympathetic to the teachings of the Lutherans Although he had taken a vow of celibacy he kept at least one mistress He hid his astronomical work revealing it to only a few intimates and the manuscript that contained his revolutionary theory that he refined for over 20 years remained hidden among my things His work was discovered and brought to light by a young mathematics professor who heard his ideas and journeyed hundreds of miles and risked personal danger to meet with Copernicus Copernicus Secret recreates the life and world of the scientific genius whose work revolutionised astronomy and altered our understanding of

our place in the world forever Revealing a surprising little known story behind the dawn of the scientific age his story is compelling and remarkable Jack Repcheck is an editor at WW Norton Co where he publishes the work of leading scientists and economists His previous book was the critically acclaimed The Man Who Found Time James Hutton and the Discovery of the Earth s Antiquity

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