

Scientism: salvation in the name of science? – *Mikael Stenmark (Philosophy), University of Uppsala (Sweden)*

Some scientists have an almost unlimited confidence in science and about what can be achieved in the name of science. For at least some of them, science even seems to be able to offer us salvation. We should put our faith in science. The term 'scientism' is frequently used to refer to these and similar kinds of beliefs and attitudes. In my talk I shall distinguish between different kinds of scientism and critically discuss the scientific claim that the only genuine kind of knowledge that we could have is scientific knowledge. The counter-argument is that there are valid forms of knowledge of non-scientific kind and that this scientific claim in fact is self-refuting. I shall also try to answer the question whether or not scientism is proper science and show how this question depends on how one understands the relationship between science and human values.