

# Formal and Empirical Methods in Philosophy of Science

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## Abstract

This essay addresses the methodology of philosophy of science and illustrates how formal and empirical methods can be fruitfully combined. Special emphasis is given to the application of experimental methods to confirmation theory and to recent work on the conjunction fallacy, a key topic in the rationality debate arising from research in cognitive psychology. Several other issue can be studied in this way. In the concluding section, a brief outline is provided of three further examples.

**Keywords:** Methodology of philosophy of science, formal methods, experimental philosophy, confirmation measures, conjunction fallacy

[Specific Sciences: Probability/Statistics](#)

[General Issues: Confirmation/Induction](#)

**Subjects:** [Specific Sciences: Psychology/Psychiatry](#)

[Specific Sciences: Cognitive Science](#)

[General Issues: Experimentation](#)

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