

Revisiting the Tools for Innovation in Science

Rodney Dietert and “Science Sifting”

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Abstract:

When we go through libraries, searching for “scientific method”, we usually have a long list of suggestions. The problem with the items in this list is that so many books take a descriptive approach as if the method is some kind of recipe.

Rodney Dietert, the author of “Science Sifting: Tools for Innovation in Science and Technology”, draws our attention to the fact that when we use language, we not only communicate our thoughts and feelings to others, we also communicate and shape our reality.

Dietert refuses the common saying that states that “sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me,”. Words cannot only harm us, they can lock us into mundane, mediocre thinking.

The author goes on to discuss what he dubbed the “problem of labels”. Although defining ourselves and our activities is a common goal of using language in the same sense that we use physical symbols like specific clothes or

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business cards that identify our membership in a specific group, Dietert remarks that we usually use these labels in a way that tighten our space of activities.

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