

The Twelve Principles of Scientific Realism

- 1. *An objective world exists that is independent of our perceptions.***
- 2. *Formalization is a good thing***
- 3. *Human behavior is not infinitely mutable***
- 4. *Theories are valid only to the extent that the propositions are credible***
- 5. *Credible and broadly applicable formal universals exist, but these are insufficient to fully reduce all behavior to universals***
- 6. *The higher-level organization of political structures varies a great deal across both time and space and is instantiated in cultural memes that are reproduced across generations.***
- 7. *Induction is every bit as important as deduction.***
- 8. *There are not qualitative and quantitative methods, there are just methods.***
- 9. *[this space is available]***
- 10. *Statistical knowledge must be accumulated on Bayesian rather than frequentist principles.***
- 11. *Knowledge in political science is structured like that in medicine, not physics.***
- 12. *“We don’t know” is a valid answer.***