

Reviewer 2

When I started reading this I thought I would like it, but as I proceeded through it looking for a clear thesis or explanation, I became increasingly convinced that it does not contain a single instance of either. What the author (Henriques) has produced is what he himself calls a depiction—literally a picture or arrangement—of the names of the various branches of scientific knowledge with the emphatic but exceedingly vague claim that this schematic representation somehow shows how it all hangs together. Passages that purport to be explanatory are phrased in metaphorical terminology—atoms behave; brain cells communicate information; physics impinges on biology, etc. -- that never receives definition. As a result, the only thing that one can be sure of in the end is that the much ballyhooed ToK scheme depicts science as a hierarchy of organizational levels, like numerous other similar schemas—e.g., that of EO Wilson, or, to mention the first one, that of Auguste Comte. In short, the piece is neither penetrating nor original. So, I do not recommend publication.