

Ian Hacking Quotes

*Science, People, Ideas, Reality, Philosopher, Done, Thinking, Problem, Mean,
Hacking, World, Philosophy, Future, Plutonium, Two, Technology, Bombs,
Paradox, Armchairs, Race*

Plutonium has a quite extraordinary relationship with people. They made it, and it kills them.

~Ian Hacking

Statistics began as the systematic study of quantitative facts about the state.

~Ian Hacking

I have this extraordinary curiosity about all subjects of the natural and human world and the interaction between the physical sciences and the social sciences.

~Ian Hacking

Until the seventeenth century there was no concept of evidence with which to pose the problem of induction!

~Ian Hacking

A single observation that is inconsistent with some generalization points to the falsehood of the generalization, and thereby 'points to itself'.

~Ian Hacking

The best reaction to a paradox is to invent a genuinely new and deep idea.

~Ian Hacking

There are two ways in which a science develops; in response to problems which it itself creates, and in response to problems that are forced on it from the outside.

~Ian Hacking

Molecular biology has routinely taken problematic things under its wing without altering core ideas.

~Ian Hacking

If you were just intent on killing people you could do better with a bomb made of agricultural fertiliser.

~Ian Hacking

Every once in a while, something happens to you that makes you realise that the human race is not quite as bad as it so often seems to be.

~Ian Hacking

Probability fractions arise from our knowledge and from our ignorance.

~Ian Hacking

The final arbitrator in philosophy is not how we think but what we do.

~Ian Hacking

Opinion is the companion of probability within the medieval epistemology.

~Ian Hacking

We favor hypotheses for their simplicity and explanatory power, much as the architect of the world might have done in choosing which possibility to create.

~Ian Hacking

Many modern philosophers claim that probability is relation between an hypothesis and the evidence for it.

~Ian Hacking

By legend and perhaps by nature philosophers are more accustomed to the armchair than the workbench.

~Ian Hacking

In each case you settle on an act. Doing nothing at all counts as an act.

~Ian Hacking

Acceptance means commitment, among other things.

~Ian Hacking

When land and its tillage are the basis of taxation, one need not care exactly how many people there are.

~Ian Hacking

From any vocabulary of ideas we can build other ideas by formal combinations of signs. But not any set of ideas will be instructive. One must have the right ideas.

~Ian Hacking

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