

# The Science of Evaluation: A Realist Manifesto

## Description

[Tweet](#)

Pawson, Ray. 2013. *The Science of Evaluation: A Realist Manifesto*. UK: Sage Publications.  
<http://www.uk.sagepub.com>

[Chapter 1 is available as a pdf](#). Hopefully other chapters will also become available this way, because this 240 page book is expensive.

## Contents

Preface: The Armchair Methodologist and the Jobbing Researcher

PART ONE: PRECURSORS AND PRINCIPLES

Precursors: From the Library of Ray Pawson

First Principles: A Realist Diagnostic Workshop

PART TWO: THE CHALLENGE OF COMPLEXITY – DROWNING OR WAVING?

A Complexity Checklist

Contested Complexity

Informed Guesswork: The Realist Response to Complexity

PART THREE: TOWARDS EVALUATION SCIENCE

Invisible Mechanisms I: The Long Road to Behavioural Change

Invisible Mechanisms II: Clinical Interventions as Social Interventions

Synthesis as Science: The Bumpy Road to Legislative Change

Conclusion: A Mutually Monitoring, Disputatious Community of Truth Seekers

## Reviews

- Lawrence Buhagiar at [LSE Review of Books](#)
- [Alliance for Useful Evidence](#)
- Adam Fletcher at [Decipher](#)
- Seetzen, Heidi. 2013. “The Science of Evaluation: A Realist Manifesto.” *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* 16 (6): 547–548. doi:10.1080/13645579.2013.823286.
- Astbury, Brad. 2013. “Some Reflections on Pawson’s Science of Evaluation: A Realist Manifesto.” *Evaluation* 19 (4): 383–401. doi:10.1177/1356389013505039.

j

## Category

1. Books

## 2. Uncategorized

**Date**

08/04/2026

**Date Created**

30/01/2014

**Author**

admin