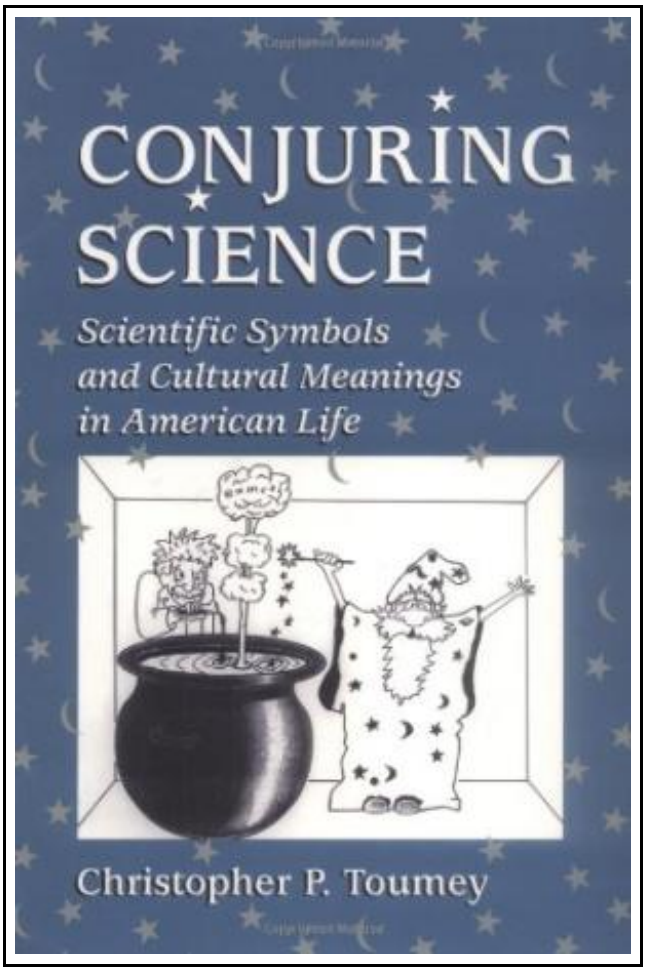
Conjuring Science: Scientific Symbols and Cultural Meanings in American Life



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CONJURING SCIENCE: SCIENTIFIC SYMBOLS AND CULTURAL MEANINGS IN AMERICAN LIFE

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Rutgers University Press, United States, 1996. Paperback. Book Condition: New. New.. 227 x 153 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. In this unsettling look at science in America s democratic culture, Christopher Toumey shows how readily the critics of elite science have hijacked scientific authority for their own purposes [and] lucidly illustrates the ways in which science has taken on multiple and contested meanings. --Ronald L. Numbers, William Coleman Professor of the History of Science and Medicine, University of Wisconsin Medical School A fascinating and clearly written analysis of the gap between the science of scientists and its popular understandings in daily American life.Toumey s work is a major contribution to anthropological understandings of science, American culture, and their convergence in the quest for meaning. --Robbie E. Davis-Floyd, University of Texas Essential to our interrogation of science is informed cultural critique, especially that which is as readable as Conjuring Science. Toumey should be read by all who shape the twenty-first century. --James Peacock, former Presidents, American Anthropological Association What are the implications for Americans when actors who play doctors on television endorse medical products, or when an entire town in the Midwest prepares for an earthquake based on the specious advice of a zoologist? These are just two of the many questions Christopher Toumey asks in his investigation of the role of science in American culture. Toumey focuses on the ways in which the symbols of science are employed to signify scientific authority in a variety of cases, from the selling of medical products to the making of public policy about AIDS/HIV--a practice he calls conjuring science. It is the conjuring of the images and symbols of scientific authority that troubles Toumey and leads him to reflect on the history of public understanding and...

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