

Translation into English: [Chapter 2 - Catalogue of Errors for Both Theories of Relativity](#)

from the German documentation of G.O. Mueller

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P: Epistemology / Error No. 7

The authors of relativity defame so-called sound common sense as incompetent and thereby indirectly base their own claims on some other, as yet unknown power of reasoning

Not Albert Einstein, but many followers of his theories defame, in their publications, sound common sense. With this they suggest to the public that they are in possession of some other, unknown power of reasoning, though they fail to periodically reveal the nature of this special understanding. - So far, at any rate, the relativists have submitted no different form of logic of their own, but continue to make use of the forms of conclusion and lines of argumentation of occidental logic.

This claim of a special, better epistemological basis for the relativists and their theories is therefore empty posturing and an easy-to-see-through trick, in order to be able to dismiss criticism of the theory as incompetent and the critics as too stupid to be able to assess the theory. Some prominent examples:

(1) P. Jordan (*Physik im Vordringen*. 1949, p. 55): *The theory of relativity is "a means of perfectly recording foreign realities" that "lie too far beyond the framework of everyday experience to be describable in terms of everyday ideas."*

(2) P. C. W. Davies (1997, p. 17): *"With the overthrow of the old view of the world - a paradigm change that has drastically altered our understanding of reality - it is "sound common sense" that is the sacrificial offering."* p. 19: *"Science began as an extension of our everyday understanding ..."* p. 24: *"Some people, in their view of reality, are so captivated by "sound common sense" that they even doubt the findings of modern physics."* On the rear cover, the *NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW* certifies: *"Davies knows the mysteries of physics like his waistcoat pocket ..."*

(3) D. Deutsch (2000, p. 7) in the Foreword: *"After all, if we do not want to understand the world only superficially, we must understand it on the basis of these theories and our reason, not however on the basis of prejudiced opinions, conventional views or because this corresponds to sound common sense. Our best theories are not only more fitting than sound common sense, but are also much more sensible." In what the previously unknown, special power of reasoning of the relativists is supposed to exist, however, is unfortunately kept a secret from the public.*

As regards their calling to a special power of reasoning, the relativists cannot refer here to Albert Einstein, whose presentation "Über die spezielle und die allgemeine Relativitätstheorie" [About the Special and the General Theories of Relativity] was first published in 1917 and was still explicitly referred to in the 1920 edition as being "generally intelligible". In the Foreword the author says that he wants "to convey as exact an insight as possible into the theory of relativity". And as regards the prerequisites for understanding, he says: "The reading matter presupposes a university-entrance-level education."

Common sense and a school-leaving-level education is therefore what Albert Einstein regards as sufficient for a basic understanding. This is not something that any relativist can fall back on. In the realization of their theory the relativists even go a daring step further and demand the treatment of the theories of relativity already in the senior grades of the higher schools, i.e. two to three years before the final school-leaving examination, thereby themselves further reducing the requirements.

Particularly business-oriented authors in the world of relativity do not shrink back from this challenge, e.g. B. R. Stannard, "an internationally recognized professor of physics", gives "An 'Easy-to-Understand' Introduction to the Foundations of the Theory of Relativity" (publisher's blurb) to be written under the title:

"Durch Raum und Zeit mit Onkel Albert" [Through Space and Time with Uncle Albert], aimed at young people aged approx. 13 or 14 (neither the author nor the publisher specifies more closely). Here one begins to suspect in what it is that the special understanding of the relativist might lie. The brainwashing must begin in good time, since only those who have the young have the future, and it also brings a bit of money. Any awkward questions from the children can be snubbed with appeasement: we don't want to worry Uncle Albert! And everything published via top addresses: Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag, Frankfurt am Main; the original via Faber und Faber in London. The publishers have the sound common sense.

These authors normally begin to polemicize against "so-called sound common sense" already in the Foreword, so as to intimidate their public. In view of the general credulity and respect shown towards the natural scientists, who are generally regarded as intelligent, sober and objective in their strivings for the truth, there are many people whom this polemic will not fail to influence.

The hatred of the relativists for the power of reasoning of the others is naturally easy to explain, because the errors of the theories of Albert Einstein are quickly recognizable to each more or less intelligent person (Einstein: final-school-leaving-examination level) with an independent opinion. Davies, who at any rate knows his waistcoat pocket, shows with his wonderful indignation what the true horror is for a relativist: that these people, who think independently, "even doubt the findings of modern physics" - Ugh! How can they!

That the relativists should fear their sharpest oponent in sound common sense is quite justified. There is hardly a critic, after all, who would ever think of "accusing" them, the relativists, of displaying sound common sense.

Einstein, Albert: Über die spezielle und die allgemeine Relativitätstheorie : (generally intelligible). 10., extended edition (36.-45. thousand). Braunschweig: Vieweg, 1920. 91 pages. (Sammlung Vieweg. 38.) 1. edition 1917. - Stannard, Russell: Durch Raum und Zeit mit Onkel Albert : eine Geschichte um Einstein u. seine Theorie / translated from the Engl. by Ulli u. Herbert Günther, with photos by John Levers. Frankfurt a. M.: Fischer Taschenb. Verl., 1996. 142 pages. (Fischer. 80015. Schatzinsel.) - Davies, Paul C. W.: Auf dem Weg zur Weltformel : Superstrings, Chaos, Complexity - und was dann? Der große Überblick über den neuesten Stand der Physik / Paul Davies & John Gribbin. Berlin Byblos Verl., 1997. 292 pages. Original edition: The matter myth. New York 1992. - Deutsch, David: Die Physik der Welterkenntnis : auf dem Weg zum universellen Verstehen. München: Dt. Taschenbuch Verl., 2000. 356 pages. (Dtv. 33051.)