

Myth of genius ignores science's real method

The heroic genius was always something of a myth: an exciting tale, but not a very 1 depiction of how science and scientists operate. Science progresses because people become expert in what is known and then debate, try something out and then something else when the first doesn't fit. It progresses because people reject hypotheses as they learn about colleagues' and rivals' work and because people both share ideas and compete. Out of such endeavours novel ideas emerge and new fields develop.

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