

**EMPIRICISM.** Empiricism is the theory that knowledge is derived from sensory experience. **S**timulated by the rise of experimental science, empiricism developed since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. **E**mpiricism calls for evidence to form objectives, ideas, truths - not intuition, tradition or revelation.

*On Jordan B. Peterson's website is a talk with Stephen Fry, 'An atheist in the realm of Myth'. They discuss the difference between rationalism and empiricism, which Fry defines with a story: "In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century many women were dying in childbirth, of what we would now call septicemia (blood poisoning), and nobody knew why, since there was no germ theory. So people tried to reason, and they said, 'well, maybe it's the smell' (there was a miasma theory, a noxious form of 'bad air' emanating from rotting organic matter); others said it was God; or that it was some moral quality on the part of the women.*

*But a man called Ignaz Semmelweis (a Hungarian obstetrician, working at the Vienna General Hospital in 1847), tried lots of different experiments and did testing on a number of people. Eventually he got a group of medical students to wash their hands before attending births. And suddenly the death rate plummeted. And the reward for Semmelweis? He was sent to a madhouse! Because nobody believed him; there was no reason he could be right! But a true empiricist would say, it almost doesn't matter what the reason is, because it is repeatable and verifiable. And even not understanding why it works, doesn't matter."*

[www.jordanbpeterson.com/podcast/s4-e22](http://www.jordanbpeterson.com/podcast/s4-e22)

**FACTFULNESS.** My book starts ever so ominously: People don't recognize reality. **A**nd that is a big problem, in fact one of the greatest, most urgent problems in the world. **T**he reason for this problem is simple: We again and again don't get our facts right. **F**actfulness is a term coined by Hans Rosling, Ola Rosling & Anna Rosling-Ronnlund. **T**hey wrote a book with that name, using statistics to show how the world really works. **A** worldview built on facts, reason and reality will bring understanding and peace to the world.

*the late Hans Rosling (1948 - 2017)  
was a Swedish physician & statistician  
go to my blog 891 with his presentation:  
Don't Panic ... The Truth about Population*

*Hans Rosling: "This book is my last battle in my life-long mission to fight devastating ignorance, and my final attempt at making an impact on the world."  
Ola Rosling: "Factfulness: The stress-reducing habit of only carrying opinions for which you have strong supporting facts. We all get a specific feeling when struggling to make weak facts sound confident: Relax, let that feeling trigger: 'I don't know!'"*

*A related book (terrific, says Bill Gates) is Enlightenment Now by Steven Pinker (he again and again quotes from Factfulness). 'Pinker urges us to step back from the prophecies of doom and shows that life, health, happiness, prosperity, safety, peace are on the rise. This progress is not the result of some cosmic force. It is a gift of the Enlightenment: The conviction that reason and science enhance human flourishing.'  
(Goodreads)*

*One of the reasons America is in trouble, is that the POTUS - the most powerful person in the world - relied on 'alternative facts'. You can stop laughing now, this is not funny.*

*see also TRUTHINESS  
and my blog 891*