“Evidence-Based Movements: Lights and Shadows”

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Abstract: The Evidence-based movement (EBM) is sweeping across the sciences. After bringing about a revolutionary turn in the bio-medical sciences, EBM has started colonizing fields as diverse as development economics, education, engineering, policy-making, and management. EBM not only promotes the conscientious use of scientific evidence to underpin our policies and practices; it also carries in its sleeves substantial methodological assumptions which have been typically translated into hierarchies of evidence. The hierarchical view of evidence to which EBM seems committed has raised both great enthusiasm and fierce criticism. This paper reviews the main arguments put forwards in the philosophical literature in favour and against EBM. The aim is generating a discussion about the feasibility and desirability of an EBM revolution in business studies.

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