

Springer

1st  
edition

2012, XXI, 316 p. 45 illus.

**Printed book**

Hardcover

**Printed book**

Hardcover

ISBN 978-94-007-3931-4

£ 219,99 | CHF 295,00 | 249,99 € |  
274,99 € (A) | 267,49 € (D)

Available

**Discount group**

Science (SC)

**Product category**

Monograph

**Series**Boston Studies in the Philosophy and  
History of Science**Other renditions**

Softcover

ISBN 978-94-007-9646-1

Softcover

ISBN 978-94-007-3933-8

**History : History of Science**

Chang, Hasok

# Is Water H<sub>2</sub>O?

**Evidence, Realism and Pluralism**

- Major study in complementary science, seeking to improve scientific knowledge through historical and philosophical investigations
- A unique layered structure allowing a diverse and multi-level readership
- A deep philosophical and historical issues discussed by means of the most familiar and basic of substances water

This book exhibits deep philosophical quandaries and intricacies of the historical development of science lying behind a simple and fundamental item of common sense in modern science, namely the composition of water as H<sub>2</sub>O. Three main phases of development are critically re-examined, covering the historical period from the 1760s to the 1860s: the Chemical Revolution (through which water first became recognized as a compound, not an element), early electrochemistry (by which water's compound nature was confirmed), and early atomic chemistry (in which water started out as HO and became H<sub>2</sub>O). In each case, the author concludes that the empirical evidence available at the time was not decisive in settling the central debates and therefore the consensus that was reached was unjustified or at least premature. This leads to a significant re-examination of the realism question in the philosophy of science and a unique new advocacy for pluralism in science. Each chapter contains three layers, allowing readers to follow various parts of the book at their chosen level of depth and detail. The second major study in "complementary science", this book offers a rare combination of philosophy, history and science in a bid to improve scientific knowledge through history and philosophy of science.

**Order online at [springer.com/booksellers](http://springer.com/booksellers)****Springer Nature Customer Service Center GmbH**

Customer Service

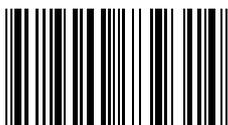
Tiergartenstrasse 15-17

69121 Heidelberg

Germany

T: +49 (0)6221 345-4301

row-booksellers@springernature.com



ISBN 978-94-007-3931-4 / BIC: PDX / SPRINGER NATURE: SC731000

Prices and other details are subject to change without notice. All errors and omissions excepted. Americas: Tax will be added where applicable. Canadian residents please add PST, QST or GST. Please add \$5.00 for shipping one book and \$ 1.00 for each additional book. Outside the US and Canada add \$ 10.00 for first book, \$5.00 for each additional book. If an order cannot be fulfilled within 90 days, payment will be refunded upon request. Prices are payable in US currency or its equivalent.