Science as Psychology examines the complexity and richness of scientific research by illustrating how social relationships, emotion, culture, and identity are implicated in the problem-solving practices of laboratory scientists. In this study, the authors gather and analyze interview and observational data from innovation-focused laboratories in the engineering sciences to show how the complex practices of laboratory research scientists provide rich psychological insights and how a better understanding of science practice facilitates the understanding of human beings more generally. The study focuses not on dismantling the rational core of scientific practice, but on illustrating how social, personal, and cognitive processes are intricately woven together in scientific thinking. The authors argue that this approach illustrates a way of addressing the integration problem in science studies – how to characterize the fluid entanglements of cognitive, affective, material, cultural, and other dimensions of discovery and problem solving. Drawing on George Kelly’s “person-as-scientist” metaphor, the authors extend the implications of this analysis to general psychology. This book is thus a contribution to science studies, the psychology of science, and general psychology.

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Science as Psychology

SENSE-MAKING AND IDENTITY
IN SCIENCE PRACTICE

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