

The Interrelation of Philosophy, Science, and Revealed Truth: An Epistemological Perspective

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Abstract

Purpose – This study aims to explore the epistemological integration among philosophy, science, and revelation as three essential frameworks in the pursuit of truth and knowledge. **Design/methodology/approach** – This research applies a qualitative approach with a philosophical-hermeneutical method. It involves descriptive and comparative analysis of primary and secondary sources from classical and contemporary scholars, incorporating Islamic theological discourse, scientific theory, and philosophical reasoning. **Findings** – The study finds that philosophy provides the rational foundation, science offers empirical evidence, and revelation delivers transcendental truth. The interaction of these three constructs reveals both convergence and tension, yet they are not mutually exclusive. Instead, when integrated, they present a holistic epistemology that supports a comprehensive worldview—balancing reason, observation, and faith. **Originality/value** – This paper contributes to the discourse on Islamic epistemology by proposing a triadic framework of knowledge that bridges the gap between reason and faith in contemporary knowledge production.

1. Introduction

Knowledge is fundamentally the product of a series of intellectual activities carried out by human beings. It consists of structured theories and arguments, where each theory originates from a set of hypotheses. When such hypotheses can be logically and empirically verified through rigorous analysis, they form the basis of theories that are scientifically acceptable and accountable. This process reflects the structured and evidence-based nature of human knowledge.

The essential distinction between humans and other creatures lies in the capacity for rational thought. The essence of humanity is revealed when individuals are able to actualize their intellectual potential and apply reason to every dimension of life. Conversely, the failure to utilize this faculty reduces human behavior to an instinctual level, even lower than that of animals.

In the context of a rapidly evolving modern world, the pursuit of truth has led humans to explore multiple domains of knowledge, notably philosophy, science, and

divine revelation. These three epistemological pillars—each with its unique methodology—play a critical role in shaping human understanding of reality and existence. Philosophy offers reflective inquiry and rational analysis; science provides empirical methods and systematic investigation; while revelation delivers transcendent knowledge believed to be derived from divine sources.

Plato, a prominent Greek philosopher, defined truth as a form of ultimate reality. In his works, such as *The Republic* and *Cratylus*, he argued that truth is absolute and transcendent—distinct from human perception, which is often relative and shaped by social context. Philosophy, as a discipline rooted in rational inquiry and intellectual reflection, has long raised foundational questions concerning the nature of truth and the means by which it can be known.

Science, in contrast, employs observation, experimentation, and empirical reasoning to explain the physical world and its phenomena. While science seeks to uncover natural laws that are measurable and testable, its

development often leads to deeper metaphysical questions—questions about purpose, existence, and meaning—that may fall beyond the scope of empirical science.

Revealed truth, derived from divine disclosure through sacred texts, represents another critical path in the human quest for truth. It is grounded in the belief that absolute and ultimate knowledge can only be accessed through divine revelation. While this approach may seem contradictory to scientific rationalism, it offers a complementary perspective that enriches human understanding, particularly when interpreted through rational and empirical lenses.

This paper aims to explore the complex interplay between philosophy, science, and revelation in the pursuit of truth. By examining the intersection of these epistemological frameworks, the study seeks to provide broader insights into how humans engage in the search for knowledge and ultimate meaning. The references utilized in this study draw from foundational philosophical concepts, contemporary scientific thought, and authoritative religious texts. Through a comprehensive and critical analysis, the paper intends to contribute to the scholarly discourse on how philosophical reasoning and scientific inquiry can align with revealed truth in the effort to construct a more holistic understanding of life and existence.

2. Literature Review

The intersection of philosophy, science, and revelation has long been debated by scholars in both Western and Islamic intellectual traditions. Khudori Shaleh (2004) introduces contemporary Islamic philosophical thought that reaffirms the role of reason in interpreting revelation. Mudhofir (1996) emphasizes the foundational role of metaphysics and epistemology in shaping human understanding, while Gie (2000) outlines the scientific method as a derivative of philosophical reasoning.

From an Islamic theological perspective, figures like Muhammad Abduh and Hasbi Ash-Shiddieqy emphasize that revelation (wahyu) functions as a divine epistemic source that informs ethical and metaphysical principles (Azis, 2024; Ismail, 2022). Recent works (Tsalitsah, 2024; Authar, 2024) have examined how philosophical constructs can act as bridges for reconciling empirical science and religious doctrines, especially in modern contexts.

Collectively, these contributions support the thesis that a comprehensive epistemological system must consider rational, empirical, and spiritual dimensions. However, literature gaps remain in analyzing how these frameworks can be methodologically integrated without compromising their individual integrity.

3. Method

This research utilizes a **qualitative descriptive method** with a **philosophical-hermeneutical approach**, suitable for exploring normative questions about knowledge, truth, and human understanding. Data sources include:

- **Primary sources:** Philosophical texts (Plato, Aristotle), Islamic classical works (Al-Ghazali, Ibn Rushd), and scriptural references (Qur'an).
- **Secondary sources:** Academic journals, books, and interpretative essays by contemporary scholars such as Khudori Shaleh and M. Quraish Shihab.

Data collection is conducted through **library research**, focusing on the extraction and analysis of key concepts: epistemology, scientific method, metaphysics, and revelation. The study employs **content analysis** to compare conceptual definitions and to synthesize them into a unified epistemological framework. Hermeneutic interpretation is applied to selected scriptural and philosophical texts to analyze their implications for integrative knowledge development.

4. Results and Discussion

1. Definitions of Philosophy, Science, and the Truth of Revelation

a. Philosophy

The term *philosophy* can be defined both etymologically and terminologically. Etymologically, it derives from the Greek word *philosophia* (from *philo*, meaning “love,” and *sophia*, meaning “wisdom” or “truth”), which is rendered as *falsafah* in Arabic and *philosophy* in English. Therefore, philosophy may be interpreted as the love of wisdom or the pursuit of knowledge. A philosopher is, thus, one who seeks or values wisdom.

Philosophy is a discipline that aims to understand reality, existence, truth, morality, and knowledge through rational inquiry and critical reflection. It addresses fundamental questions concerning life, the universe, and the human condition. The major branches of philosophy include:

- **Metaphysics** (the study of reality and existence),
- **Epistemology** (the study of knowledge),
- **Ethics** (the study of morality),
- **Logic** (the study of reasoning), and
- **Aesthetics** (the study of beauty).

Philosophy emerged as a human response to existential questions and challenges. It seeks to answer these using reason. Philosophical inquiries address topics ranging from the existence of God, the nature of the universe, to the essence of human existence. Importantly, philosophy does not stand alone in responding to these fundamental issues. Science and revelation serve as additional means through which humans can seek understanding. Within this framework, philosophy, science, and revelation serve as core references in addressing life's complex questions. Philosophy plays a critical role in exploring the relationship between science and revelation by offering:

1. A Conceptual Framework

- Philosophy provides a broad framework for analyzing and understanding the

connections between science and revelation.

- It helps uncover underlying assumptions, concepts, and logical structures within both domains.

2. Epistemological Analysis

- Philosophy examines the nature and sources of knowledge in both science and revelation.
- It offers insights into how each validates and justifies truth claims, identifying both similarities and differences.

3. Metaphysical Reflection

- Philosophy provides a metaphysical lens to bridge physical realities (studied by science) with spiritual dimensions (articulated in revelation).
- It explores fundamental questions concerning the universe, divinity, and human existence.

4. Ethical and Value-Based Inquiry

- Philosophy investigates the ethical implications of scientific developments and religious doctrines.
- It helps assess their impact on human life and society.

5. Interdisciplinary Approach

- Philosophy can bridge science and revelation through interdisciplinary dialogue.
- It enables a more comprehensive understanding by integrating different perspectives.

In summary, through its broad conceptual scope, epistemological insights, metaphysical reflection, and interdisciplinary methods, philosophy helps clarify, mediate, and enrich our understanding of the interplay between science and revelation. It reveals areas where both can complement one another and highlights their respective limitations.

b. Science

Science is a systematic body of knowledge about the natural world and its phenomena, gained through empirical methods such as

observation, experimentation, and logical analysis. It arises from two objects of study: *materia* and *forma*.

- *Materia* refers to the physical substances or entities being studied (e.g., the universe),
- *Forma* refers to the perspective or lens through which humans investigate these materials, enabling the distinction between various scientific disciplines (e.g., psychology, sociology, medicine).

Science aims to produce testable, replicable knowledge based on objective, empirical evidence and is open to revision in light of new findings. As science studies both the cosmos and humanity, it has evolved into several branches:

1. Natural Sciences

- Astronomy
- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth Sciences
- Life Sciences

2. Social Sciences

- Sociology
- Anthropology
- Psychology
- Economics
- Political Science

3. Humanities

- Arts
- Law
- Linguistics
- History

c. Revelation

Revelation (*wahyu*) linguistically connotes secrecy and swiftness, referring to divine messages conveyed to chosen individuals in a manner unknown to others. Sometimes it is also referred to as *al-mūḥā*, meaning “that which is revealed.” The term appears 78 times in the Qur’an — 6 times as a noun and 72 times as a verb.

Scholars define revelation as follows:

- **Muhammad ‘Abd al-‘Azim al-Zarqani:** Revelation is God’s communication to His chosen servant concerning His will, encompassing both guidance and knowledge.
- **Muhammad Abduh:** Revelation is inner knowledge that a person acquires with the conviction that it originates from God, whether through a mediator or not.
- **Hasbi Ash-Shiddieqy:** Revelation is the reception of divine speech in the soul, later forming words inscribed in the heart.

Thus, revelation can be defined as divine communication directly instilled in a person’s soul, conveyed rapidly and secretly, either directly or via intermediaries. It is rooted in faith and spirituality, providing moral and ritual guidance, and shaping humanity’s relationship with the Divine and the unseen. The Qur’an illustrates the intersection of science and revelation, such as in **Surah Al-Qiyamah (75:36–39)**:

"Does man think he will be left neglected? Was he not a drop of ejaculated semen? Then he became a clinging clot; and [God] created and proportioned [him] and made of him two sexes, male and female."

This verse refers to the embryological process, aligning with modern findings in developmental biology. Revelation thus affirms scientific phenomena, emphasizing that philosophy, science, and revelation — although distinct in methods and aims — are interconnected in exploring reality and human existence.

The Role of Philosophy, Science, and Revelation

1. Philosophy as the Foundation of Thought

Philosophy raises fundamental questions about truth, existence, values, and knowledge. It forms the methodological and ethical foundation

of scientific inquiry, especially in its epistemological analysis of how knowledge is obtained and understood.

2. Science as an Empirical Method

Science relies on observation and experimentation to test hypotheses. Its knowledge is provisional and subject to revision, though grounded in logical and empirical verification. Scientific discoveries often raise deeper philosophical and ethical questions.

3. Revelation as Divine Truth

Revelation, as found in holy scriptures, offers transcendent, absolute truths beyond human reasoning. It presents a moral and spiritual framework that complements the empirical knowledge of science.

4. Interactions among Philosophy, Science, and Revelation

- **Complementarity:** Philosophy can contextualize scientific findings and inform ethical implications.
- **Conflict:** Differences may arise, such as between evolutionary theory and scriptural creation narratives.
- **Integration:** Some thinkers seek a unified framework, where theology and science are not contradictory but complementary.

Correlation among Philosophy, Science, and Revelation

- **Philosophy** seeks a comprehensive understanding of life, reality, and values through logical and critical inquiry.
- **Science** investigates observable phenomena using empirical methods and seeks verifiable truths.
- **Revelation** offers spiritual and moral guidance rooted in divine authority and sacred texts.

Their **interrelationship** can be summarized as follows:

- **Philosophy bridges** science and revelation by offering conceptual clarity.
- **Science contributes** factual, observable insights.
- **Revelation provides** spiritual and moral perspectives.

This triadic framework supports a **comprehensive approach** to understanding reality and the human condition.

Comparative Perspectives

Aspect	Philosophy	Science	Revelation
Methodology	Reflective, logical, argumentative	Empirical, experimental, verifiable	Faith-based, spiritual, revelatory
Source of Knowledge	Rational thought and logic	Observation and empirical data	Sacred texts and divine authority
Objective	Comprehensive understanding of existence	Explanation of natural phenomena	Guidance for spiritual and moral life
Validation	Logical consistency	Empirical proof	Faith and spiritual experience

Convergence and Integration

Despite differences in approach and domain, **philosophy, science, and revelation** are not mutually exclusive. Instead, they can interact and enrich each other:

- **Philosophy** offers the framework for deeper analysis.
- **Science** provides empirical evidence to support or challenge perspectives.
- **Revelation** offers meaning, purpose, and values to human inquiry.

This integrated model fosters a **holistic worldview**, encouraging harmony between rational thought, empirical knowledge, and spiritual belief.

5. Conclusion

Based on the description of the background and discussion of the research results, the conclusions of the study can be formulated as follows:

1. Asset Management (MA) has a positive and significant effect on dividend policy, while liability management (ML) has a negative and insignificant effect on dividend policy (KD) in Basic Industry sector companies listed on the Indonesian capital market (IDX) for the 2016-2020 period. .
2. Asset Management (MA) and Dividend Policy (KD) have a direct positive and significant effect on firm value in the industrial sector listed on the Indonesian capital market (IDX). Meanwhile, Liability Management (ML) has a negative and insignificant effect on firm value in the Basic Industry sector of the banking sector listed on the Indonesian capital market (IDX) for the 2016-2020 period.
3. Asset Management (MA) has a positive and significant effect on firm value through the Dividend Policy (KD) in the Basic Industry sector of the banking sector listed on the Indonesian capital market (IDX). Meanwhile, Liability Management (ML) has a negative and insignificant effect on Company Value (NP) through Dividend Policy (KD) in banking industry sector companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange from

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