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On the Discourse of Social Science uses the theory and analytical tools of Systemic Functional Linguistics to examine the discourse of social science from two perspectives. First the prototypical discourse patterns of undergraduate textbooks in the disciplines of Economics, Sociology and Political Science are analysed to show how the current orthodoxy of the disciplines is constructed. Second, the book considers the evolution of the discourse patterns of social science by examining canonical works from the history of the social sciences. As a contrast works from the humanities discipline of moral philosophy from the same time scale are analysed. It is argued that the discourse of the social sciences evolved as a kind of hybrid of the discourses of the humanities and the physical sciences.

At the time of publication, **Peter Wignell** was a senior lecturer in Applied Linguistics at Charles Darwin University. Peter's main research interest is the role of language in the creation of specialised knowledge.

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