Pearson studies philosophies, ethics of science

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Science and technology have become the dominant forces in public life, particularly when it comes to topics such as evolution or climate change. As a result, more and more scientists are adding their voices to the arguments on these issues.

One such scholar is Dr. Chris Pearson. Pearson was born in Madison, Wisconsin. He received his bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The master's in Philosophy from Northern Illinois University is also in Philosophy. He received a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Today he is an assistant professor of Philosophy at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

The word philosopher comes from the Greek word philo sopheros, meaning “love of wisdom.” It is becoming more and more common that philosophers start to turn to the sciences to address traditional questions in philosophy and the role, then, for the philosopher is to look at what scientists usually do and then try to articulate the things that philosophers do that are different from science.

“People don’t have to specialize. ‘Specialization is key to philosophy.” We don’t have to have a specialization,” Pearson said. “We can look at the data and then, for the philosophers is to look at the data and then, to come up with a philosophical interpretation of it.”

For Pearson, many public misconceptions are due to a lack of understanding in philosophy. Some people think that philosophers go off on tangents and don’t have to specialize. “Specialization is key to philosophy.” We don’t have to have a specialization,” Pearson said. “We can look at the data and then, for the philosophers is to look at the data and then, to come up with a philosophical interpretation of it.”