

# Paradigm • ~ shift • Paradigm anew

The concepts of paradigm and paradigm shift emerged through the seminal work of Thomas Kuhn, in *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, published in 1962.<sup>1</sup> The following are Kuhn's definitions of the concepts.

Paradigm: These I take to be a universally recognized scientific achievement that for a time provide model\* problems and solutions to a community of practitioners.—  
Thomas Kuhn, p. x, 187

## **A paradigm:**

- defines a normal science
- provides constitutive principles [the constitutions, which comprise institutions as what they are] p 133
- defines points at which techniques of mathematical calculations attach p 133
- governs a group of practitioners p 180
- forms the basis for further articulation and speculation, like a judicial decision would be within common law
- provides the rules of the game
- forms a consensus based way of seeing: group-licensed or sanctioned, and, thus, more than just a set of arbitrary or mandated rules or laws

## **A paradigm shift:**

- defines the process of conversion, a shifting paradigm: likened unto the gestalt shift and neural programming p 204
- requires leaving generalizations that were tautologies: true by definition and, thus, by decree: the way the world must be no matter what the what the particular circumstances: criteria p 183 - 184
- changes the formulation of questions and answers p 140
- changes the methodology one uses to answer the questions

From Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 3rd edition, 1996, first ed. in 1962

\* The standard dictionary entries of the words model and example may have given Dr. Kuhn the base from which to create a new standard definition for the otherwise ordinary word that is paradigm.

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