Short summary & discussion points/questions: Chap. 3, Godfrey-Smith

- This chapter mainly discusses perspectives on confirmation and induction in the twentieth century.

- Chapter looks into how observations can provide evidence of scientific theory.

- Confirmation has been explained using examples of induction.

- Should observations made in the past be used to understand the future?

- Leading scholar, Hume was a critic of the assumption that the future could be understood by using the past. How do we know that the future would always be like the past? What if the future changes?

- Chapter discusses premises of deductively valid and non-deductive inferences in making generalizations. Are these premises always true?

- Two major types of non-deductive inference are discussed: induction and explanatory inference;

- Chapter also talks about Clark Glymour’s views on the use of hypothetico-deductivism to test hypotheses. What is the role of the basic logic?

- To understand logical equivalence, we need to think in terms of the Raven problem.

- “New Riddle of Induction” shows that there is no formal theory of confirmation and induction.

Points of discussion
• Discuss some challenges with using the theories of confirmation and induction that the chapter discusses?

• What are your thoughts on Hume’s view of inductive “skepticism”? 