

## 6 - Nature of Science: History, Philosophy and Sociology of Science | Empirical

### SP - (16105) - WONDER WILD: A PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH TO UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL REPRESENTATIONS OF SCIENCE

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#### Short Abstract

*A disparity seems to exist amongst the perceptions of science adopted by primary teachers and learners, and the perceptions attested for in science education. This disparity in perceptions of science calls for an understanding of the current perceptions that teachers and learners have about the nature of science as a means to inform pedagogical practices and policies. The present research project aims to offer an alternative methodological approach to investigating understandings of nature of science. This approach is novel in that it draws questions from the philosophy of science to develop questions which engage participants in philosophical dialogue to reveal their understandings about nature of science. Wonder Wild is a set of cards which have been developed for this purpose and have been already trialed in a small scale study with promising results. Preliminary responses from participants show that engaging with such philosophical questions about science have engaged them in critical reflection of their own perceptions and ideas.*