

Science's crisis unspoken ripples

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Lovely (also in the sense of 'of love') piece by an Italian scholar [@robertocalasso](https://twitter.com/robertocalasso):

[nybooks.com/articles/2016/...](https://nybooks.com/articles/2016/)

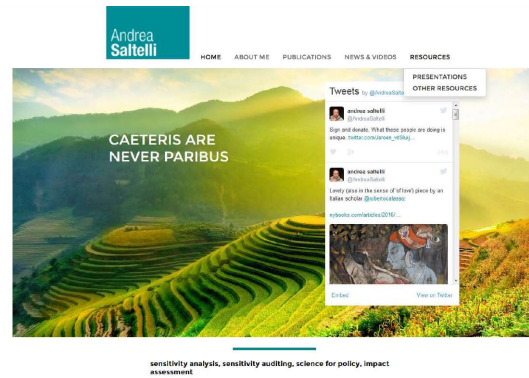


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sensitivity analysis, sensitivity auditing, science for policy, impact assessment



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THE RIGHTFUL PLACE OF SCIENCE: SCIENCE ON THE VERGE

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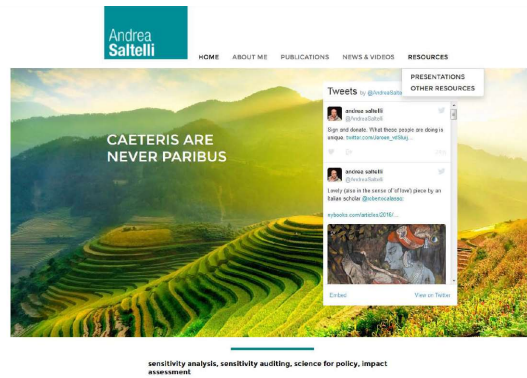
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Science in crisis: from the sugar scam to Brexit, our faith in experts is fading

September 22, 2016 at 4:30pm EDT





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• • • from Abby Sciuto to Michael Gove • • •



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OECD publishing

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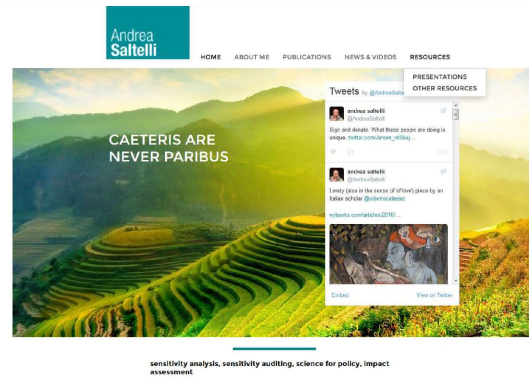
Scientific Advice for Policy Making

THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF EXPERT BODIES AND INDIVIDUAL SCIENTISTS

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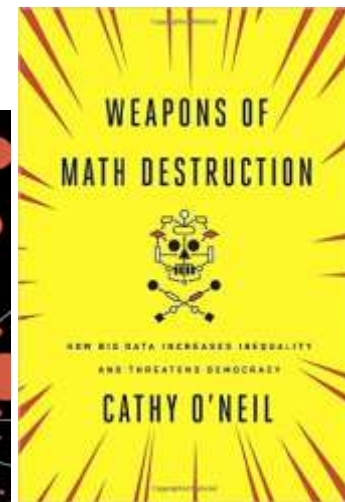
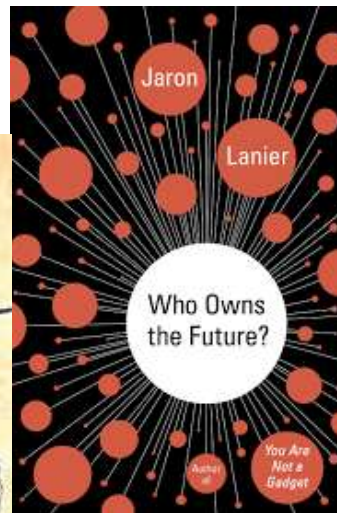
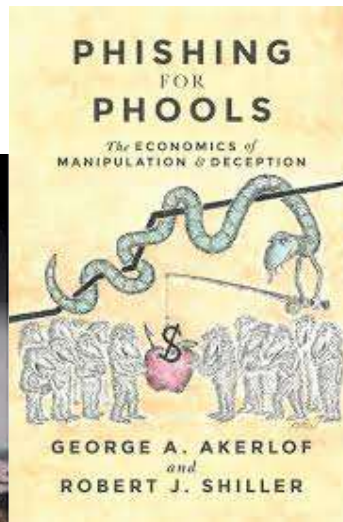
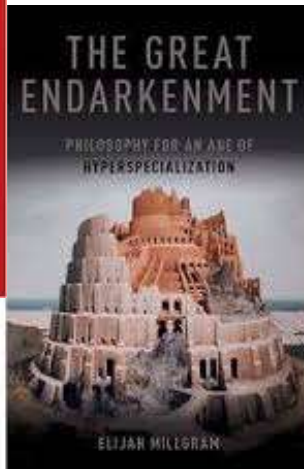
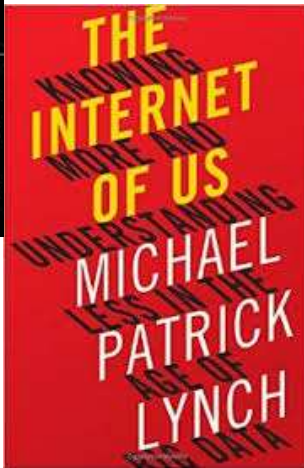
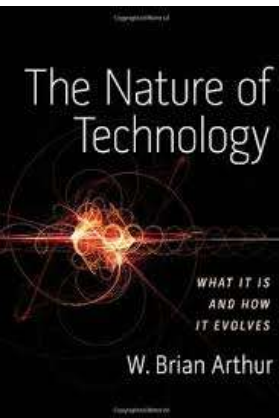


• • • slothful institutions • • •



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...technology vs us...





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...the end of the grand narrative and the need to move on...



Jean-François Lyotard
1924-1998



Jerry Ravetz &
Silvio Funtowicz
~ 1988, Sheffield.



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...need for new brave actors...



Jeffrey Beall

Lois Gibbs

Timothy Gowers Marc Edwards



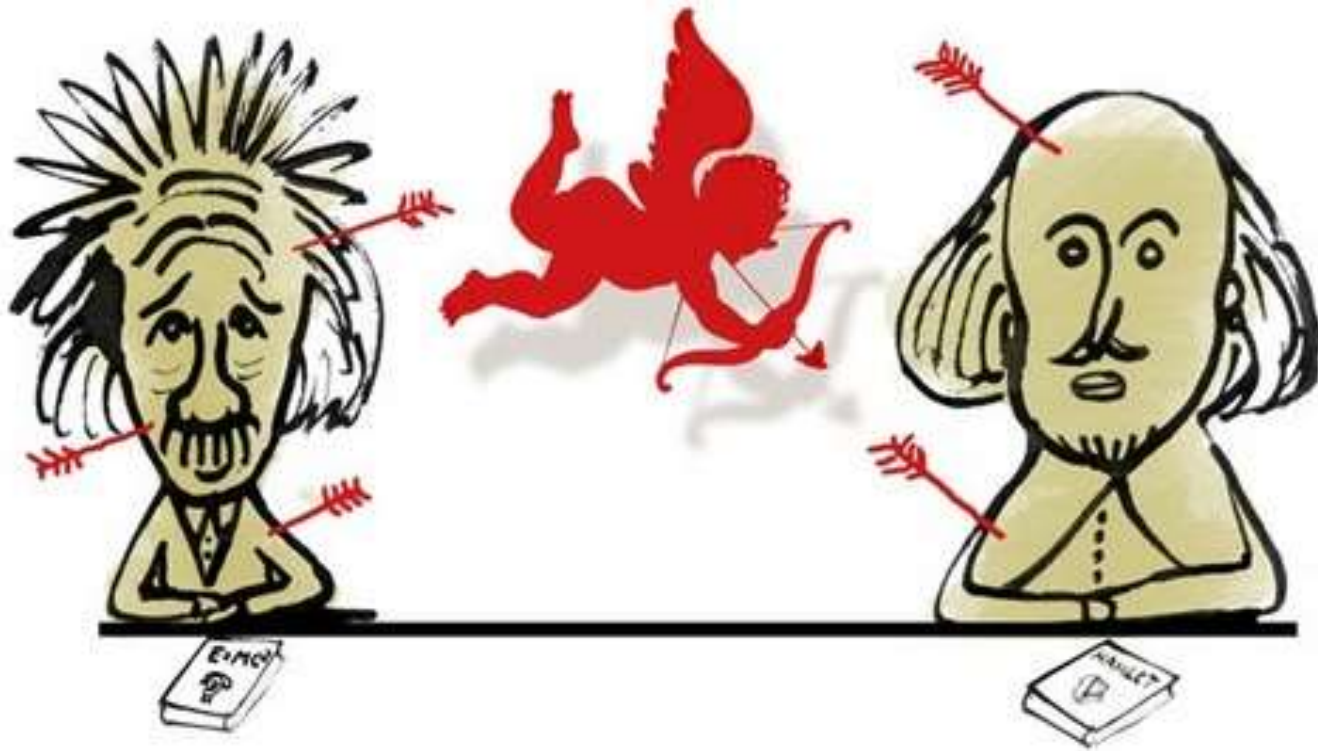
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...fighting idols ...



Today:



Science wars again?



A simplistic reading

Different wars (1):

- Who is right on climate, genetically modifies organism, pollinators and pesticides, shale gas fracking?
- Is there really a crisis?
- Are one half or more of all scientific results truly wrong?

Different wars (2):

- What are the root causes of the crisis?
- Will science and its institutions be capable to trace a way?
- Is it there in science too much market on not enough market?

A Plan to Defend against the War on Science

The challenge of creating a public able to parse evidence-free “facts” rests with the press, educators and other thought leaders

By Shawn Otto on October 9, 2016

**SCIENTIFIC
AMERICAN**



Shawn Otto

The challenge of creating a public able to parse evidence-free “facts” rests with the press, educators and other thought leaders



Which ‘thought leaders’? Post-modernists please abstain

“... a generation of university academics who have taught a corrosive brand of postmodernist identity politics that argues truth is relative, and that science is a “meta-narrative”...”

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“The ideas of postmodernism align well with the identity politics of the left, and they have helped to empower disadvantaged voices, which always adds to the conversation. But what works in this case for political discourse is demonstrably false when applied to science”

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“By undermining science’s claim of objectivity, these postmodernists have unwittingly laid the philosophical foundation for the new rise of authoritarianism. Because if there is no objective evidence that has ultimate credibility, how is one to settle competing claims of truth, such as those made by Trump?” (Shawn Otto, Scientific American)

The meta-
narrative is
dead!

Crooked
Hilary!



“[...] Science is never partisan but it is inherently political, because its antiauthoritarian, evidence-based conclusions either confirm or challenge somebody’s cherished ideological or economic interests—and that is always political”

Partisan?
Me?



Frederic Stanley "Rick" Mishkin, economist

What is happening?

Climate wars were easy: good versus bad guys.

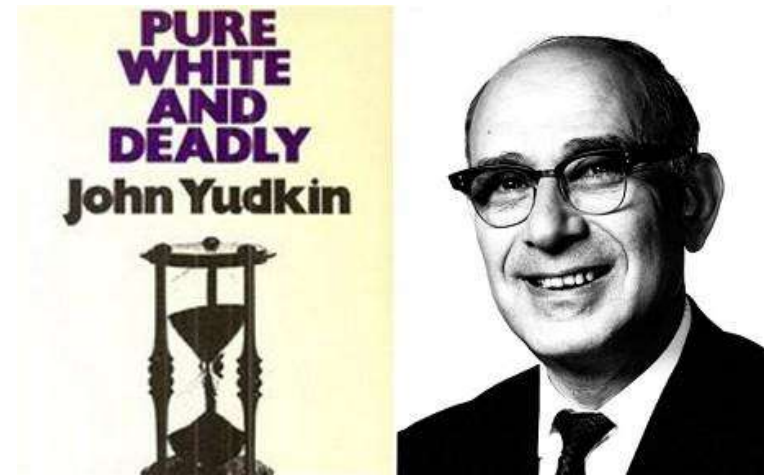


Now it becomes
complicated:

Scientists, the bad guys;



The malfunctioning truth machine;



To be continued

In the next episode:

Calls to keep science under closer control...



END

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