

Scientific integrity

Andrea Saltelli
Barcelona, April 20 2023

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How to Teach Research Integrity?

16 Pages • Posted: 27 Feb 2023

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Date Written: February 21, 2023

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ABSTRACT VIEWS

101

The plan: follow the three meanings of the word integrity found in the Webster dictionary

- Norms
- Function
- Completeness



Definition of *integrity*

1 : firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values : incorruptibility

2 : an unimpaired condition : soundness

3 : the quality or state of being complete or undivided : completeness



Examples

“Firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values; incorruptibility”

➔ ‘a person of a remarkable integrity’



Examples

“An unimpaired condition, soundness”

→ ‘the reactor vessel has not lost its integrity’



Examples

“The quality or state of being complete or undivided; completeness”

➔ ‘the manuscript has arrived to us in its integrity’



Definition of *integrity*

1 : firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values : incorruptibility

As in 'a person of a remarkable integrity'

The ethos of open science:
CUDOS, by R.K. Merton, a
system of universal norms



Robert K. Merton

R. Merton, *The sociology of science: Theoretical and empirical investigations*, 1973.

Communalism – the common ownership of scientific discoveries, according to which scientists give up intellectual property rights in exchange for recognition and esteem (Merton actually used the term Communism, but had this notion of communalism in mind, not Marxism);

Universalism – according to which claims to truth are evaluated in terms of universal or impersonal criteria, and not on the basis of race, class, gender, religion, or nationality;

Disinterestedness – according to which scientists are rewarded for acting in ways that outwardly appear to be selfless;

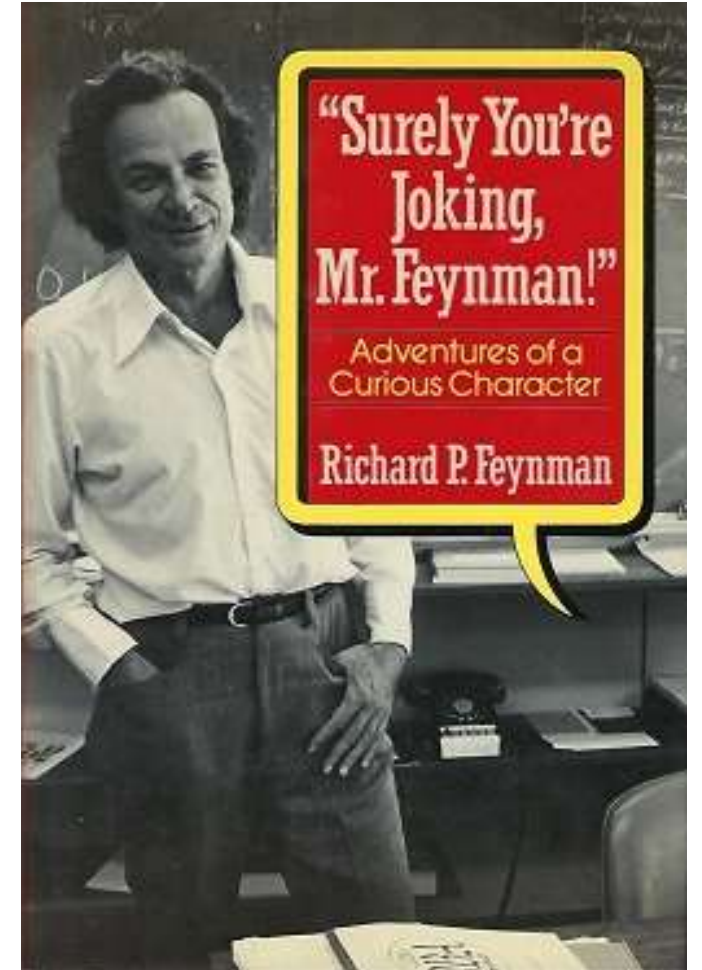
Organized Skepticism – all ideas must be tested and are subject to rigorous, structured community scrutiny.

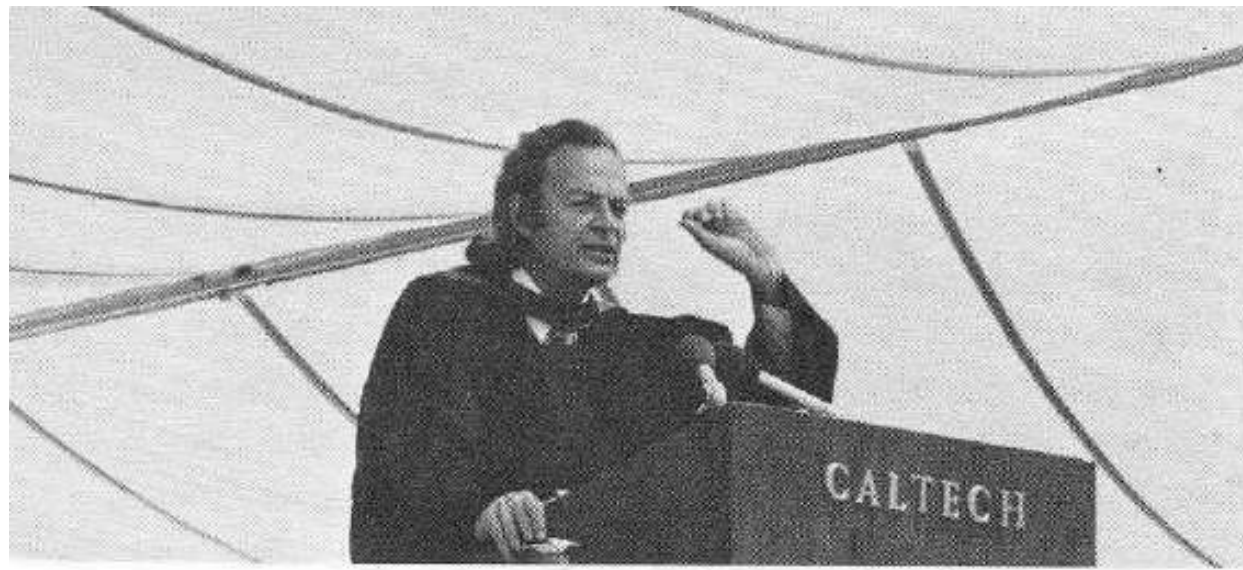


Caltex's speech
(1974)

Richard Feynman
on what organized
scepticism is
about

<https://calteches.library.caltech.edu/51/2/CargoCult.htm>





Cargo Cult Science

by RICHARD P. FEYNMAN

**Some remarks on science, pseudoscience,
and learning how to not fool yourself.
Caltech's 1974 commencement address.**



Source:
<https://www.zmescience.com/science/what-are-cargo-cults/>

What is a cargo cult?

“In the South Seas there is a cargo cult of people. During the war they saw airplanes land with lots of good materials, and they want the same thing to happen now ...

So they've arranged to imitate things like runways, ... they wait for the airplanes to land”



...but they're missing something essential, because the planes don't land





“[...] there is one feature I notice that is generally missing in cargo cult science. That is the idea that we all hope you have learned in studying science in school [...].”



It's a kind of scientific integrity, a principle of scientific thought that corresponds to a kind of utter honesty—a kind of leaning over backwards. [...] Details that could throw doubt on your interpretation must be given, if you know them. [...] give all of the information to help others to judge the value of your contribution.”

Contradictions in CUDOS?

The same R.K. Merton realized later in life that norms have corresponding counter norms

Mitroff, I. I. 1974, Norms and Counter-Norms in a Select Group of the Apollo Moon Scientists: A Case Study of the Ambivalence of Scientists, *American Sociological Review*, 39, 579–595.

NORMS AND COUNTER-NORMS IN A SELECT GROUP OF THE APOLLO MOON SCIENTISTS: A CASE STUDY OF THE AMBIVALENCE OF SCIENTISTS*

IAN I. MITROFF

American Sociological Review 1974, Vol. 39 (August): 579-595

This paper describes a three and a half year study conducted over the course of the Apollo lunar missions with forty-two of the most prestigious scientists who studied the lunar rocks. The paper supports the Merton-E. Barber concept of sociological ambivalence, that social institutions reflect potentially conflicting sets of norms. The paper offers a set of counter-norms for science, arguing that if the norm of universalism is rooted in the impersonal character of science, an opposing counter-norm is rooted in the personal character of science. The paper also argues that not only is sociological ambivalence a characteristic of science, but it seems necessary for the existence and ultimate rationality of science.

Three-and-a-half-year study conducted over the course of the Apollo lunar missions with forty-two of the most prestigious scientists who studied the lunar rocks

The concept of **sociological ambivalence:**
social institutions reflect potentially conflicting sets of norms

[We must] consider, first, how potentially contradictory norms develop in every social institution; next, how in the institution of science conflicting norms generate marked ambivalence in the lives of scientists; and finally, how this ambivalence affects the actual, as distinct from the supposed, relations between men of science (Merton, 1963a:80).

- Solitariness (secrecy, miserism) is often used to keep findings secret in order to be able to claim patent rights...

Instead of Communalism

- Particularism [...] a real issue, particularly when you consider the ratio of researchers in rich countries compared with those in poor countries

Instead of Universalism

- Interestedness arises because scientists have genuine interests at stake in the reception of their research...
Instead of Disinterestedness

- Dogmatism because careers are built upon a particular premise (theory) being true...

Instead of Organized
Skepticism

Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics

Normative Dissonance in Science: Results from a National Survey of U.S. Scientists

Melissa S. Anderson, Brian C. Martinson, Raymond De Vries

First Published December 1, 2007 | Research Article | [Find in PubMed](#)

<https://doi.org/10.1525/jer.2007.2.4.3>

survey responses from 3,247 mid- and early-career scientists who had research funding from the U.S. National Institutes of Health

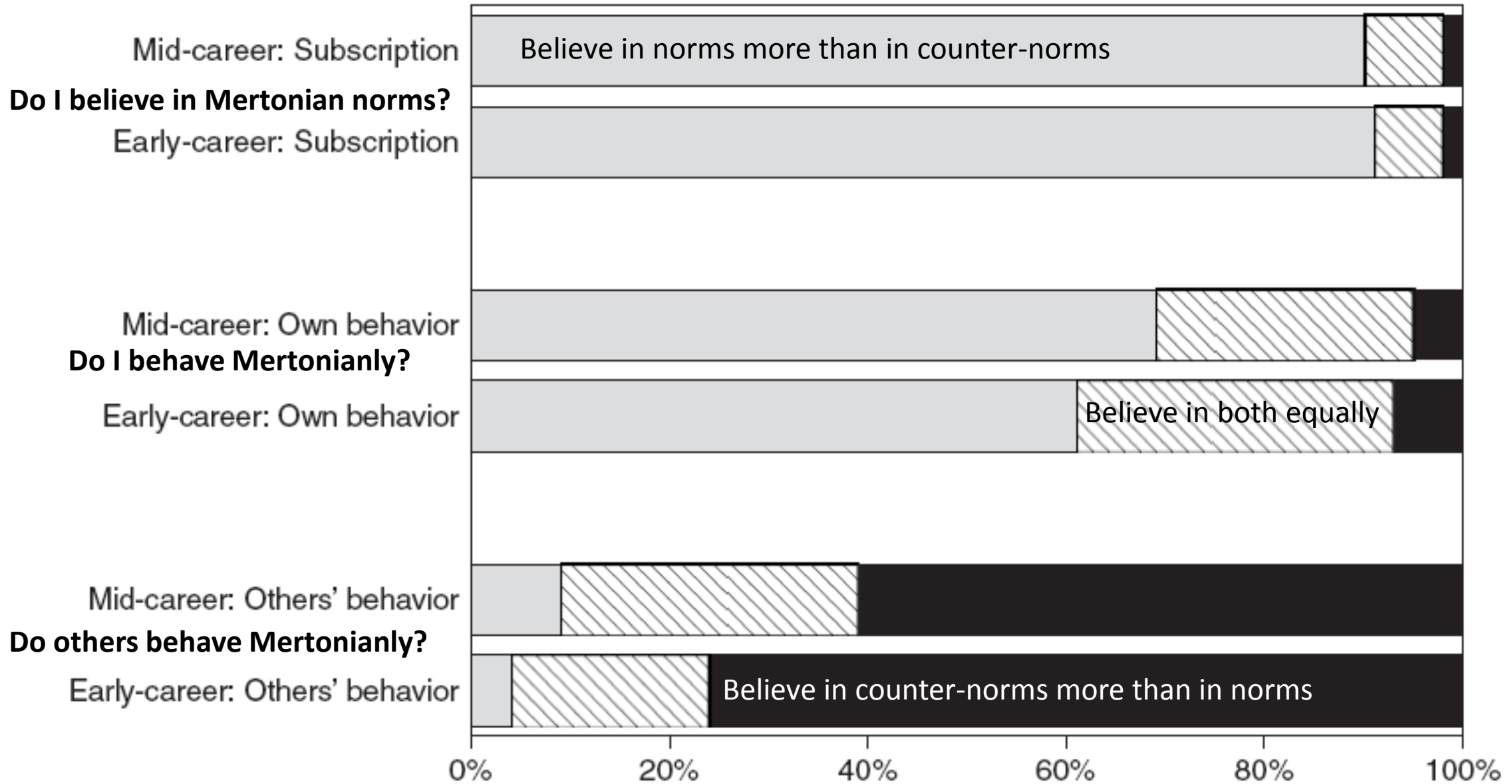


FIG. 3. Norm versus Counternorm Scores: Percent with Norm > Counternorm (dotted), Norm = Counternorm (striped), Norm < Counternorm (solid).

Pause here



Definition of *integrity*

1 : firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values : incorruptibility

Integrity (sense 1) is one of the eight pillars of the EC Open Science – Plan S agenda

1. Rewards and incentives
2. Research indicators and next-generation metrics
3. Future of scholarly communication
4. European open science cloud
5. FAIR data
6. Research integrity
7. Skills and education
8. Citizen science



Jefferson Pooley, February 21st, 2020, blogs.lse.ac.uk/:

Plan S accelerates read-and-publish deals in the Global North. They lock in and exacerbate existing inequalities in scholarly publishing.

Capitalism and Society

Volume 3, Issue 2

2008

Article 5

The Historical Origins of 'Open Science': An Essay on Patronage, Reputation and Common Agency Contracting in the Scientific Revolution

Paul A. David, *Stanford University & The University of
Oxford*

Open science was always a fragile social construction ...

... resulting from the movement away from secret knowledge and princely patronage toward state patronage, academies, and other modern institutions of science, taking place in the period between renaissance and the industrial revolution

The Historical Origins of 'Open Science': An Essay on Patronage, Reputation and Common Agency Contracting in the Scientific Revolution

Paul A. David, *Stanford University & The University of Oxford*

What was before open science?

"Regarding the everyday duties, I shun only that type of prostitution consisting of having to expose my labor to the arbitrary prices set by every customer.

Instead, I will never look down on service a prince or a great lord or those who may depend on him, but, to the contrary, I will always desire such a position." (Galileo Galilei, 1564 – 1642)



Capitalism and Society

Volume 3, Issue 2

2008

Article 5

The Historical Origins of 'Open Science': An
Essay on Patronage, Reputation and Common
Agency Contracting in the Scientific
Revolution

Paul A. David, *Stanford University & The University of
Oxford*

Open science exists already, funded by public and private actors, based on a distinctive ethos

It coexists with commercially oriented research

Capitalism and Society

Volume 3, Issue 2

2008

Article 5

The Historical Origins of 'Open Science': An
Essay on Patronage, Reputation and Common
Agency Contracting in the Scientific
Revolution

Paul A. David, *Stanford University & The University of
Oxford*

Open science lives a tension between:

Defending the existing ethos of the republic of science, Merton's CUDOS, "public knowledge"

Proprietary science, secrecy, visions of a knowledge economy

Capitalism and Society

Volume 3, Issue 2

2008

Article 5

The Historical Origins of 'Open Science': An
Essay on Patronage, Reputation and Common
Agency Contracting in the Scientific
Revolution

Paul A. David, *Stanford University & The University of
Oxford*

An acceleration toward 'Intellectual Capitalism'
risks to move science back to the age of
princely patronage ...

... from CUDOS back to the pre-renaissance
ethos of secrecy in the pursuit of Nature's
Secrets

Capitalism and Society

Volume 3, Issue 2

2008

Article 5

The Historical Origins of 'Open Science': An
Essay on Patronage, Reputation and Common
Agency Contracting in the Scientific
Revolution

Paul A. David, *Stanford University & The University of
Oxford*

What Philip Mirowski has to say about the dangers of open science



S|S|S

Article

The future(s) of open science

Social Studies of Science
2018, Vol. 48(2) 171–203

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DOI: 10.1177/0306312718772086

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Philip Mirowski 

John J. Reilly Center, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, USA

 SAGE

We already struggle with
“author–paid Article Publishing
Charges (APCs) that range from
\$500 to \$5,000 USD [Elsevier
OA]”;

Corporate publishers have easily
assimilated open access into their
profit model.

“the agenda [of open science] is effectively to re-engineer science along the lines of platform capitalism, under the misleading banner of opening up science to the masses”

Article

S|S|S

The future(s) of open science

Philip Mirowski 

John J. Reilly Center, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, USA

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“the open science movement is an artifact of the current neoliberal regime of science, [to] reconfigures both the institutions and the nature of knowledge to better conform to market imperatives”



Article

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Philip Mirowski 

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Open science is not there to solve

- Distrust of science in the general population
- Science's democracy deficit
- Slowdown in scientific productivity
- Reproducibility crisis

Article

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How a neoliberal agenda has damaged science

Article

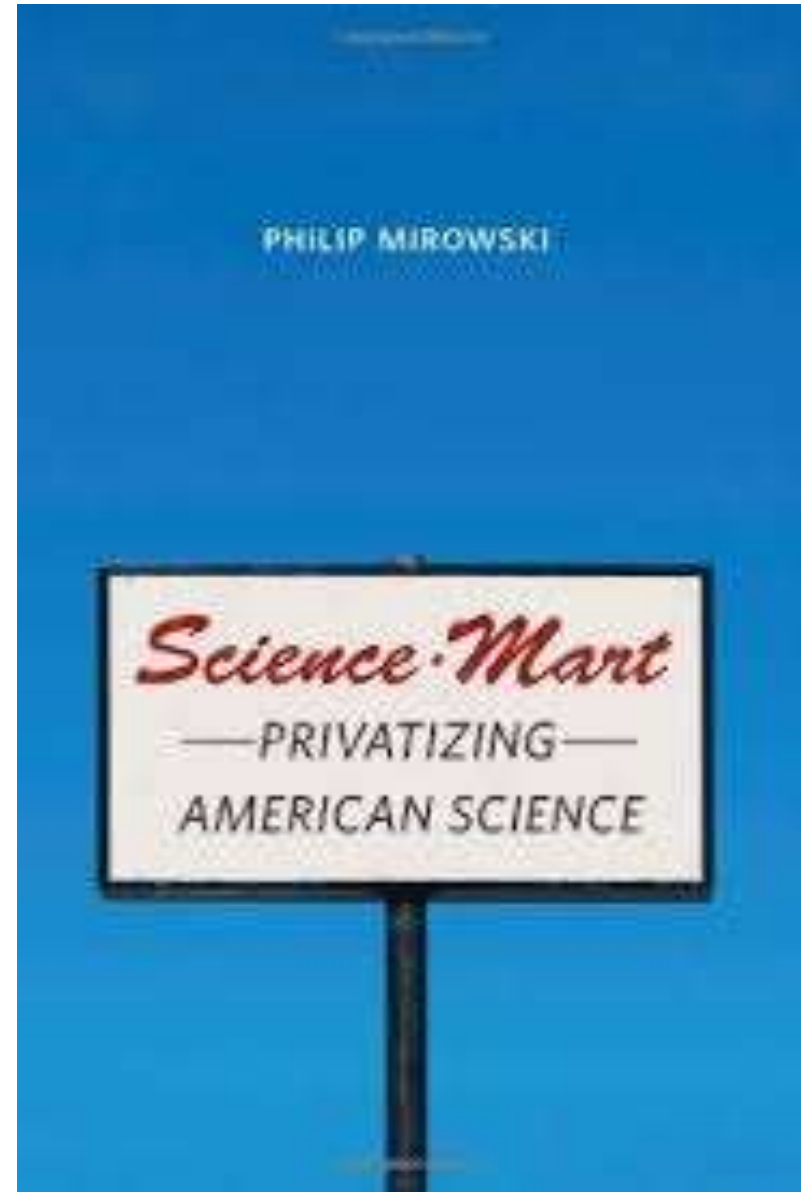
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The future(s) of open science

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What is hence the danger for Mirowski?

Platform capitalism and the uberization of science

Article

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The future(s) of open science

Philip Mirowski 

John J. Reilly Center, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, USA

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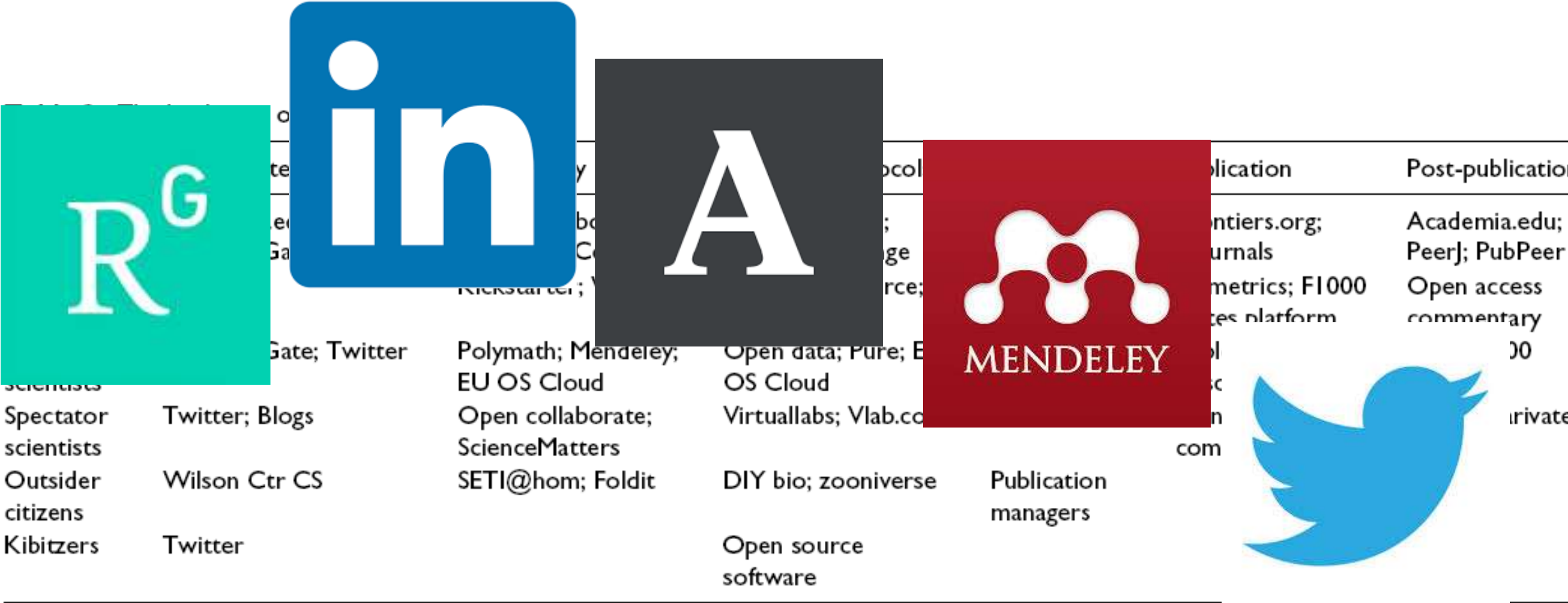
 SAGE

Platforms competing to become the 'Facebook for Science'

The future(s) of open science

Social Studies of Science
 2018, Vol. 48(2) 171–203
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Philip Mirowski 
 John J. Reilly Center, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, USA



The future is with us already

we as scientists already live in “a quasi-market that constantly monitors [our] ‘net worth’ through a range of metrics, scores and indicators”

H-index, impact factors, peer contacts, network affiliations, and the like”

Article

S|S|S

The future(s) of open science

Philip Mirowski 

John J. Reilly Center, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, USA

Social Studies of Science
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Elsevier Data Repository



Create account

September 2022 data-update for "Updated science-wide author databases of standardized citation indicators"

Published: 3 November 2022 | Version 5 | DOI: 10.17632/btchxktzyw.5

Contributor: [John P.A. Ioannidis](#)

Description

See file 28oct2022_v5_update_release_notes.txt below for detailed explanation of differences between versions 5 and 4. They both use the same data but version 5 has more appropriate subfield assignment.

Citation metrics are widely used and misused. We have created a publicly available database of top-cited scientists that provides standardized information on citations, h-index, co-authorship adjusted hm-index, citations to papers in different authorship positions and a composite indicator (c-score). Separate data are shown for career-long and, separately, for single recent year impact. Metrics with and without self-

Dataset metrics

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Views:

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Blog Mentions:

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Source: <https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/btchxktzyw/5>

Open access
movement
(Plan S etc.)



Publishers multiply
their titles by creating
new OA journals



Which favours the
mimetic chances of
predatory publishers



Publishers increase
their already
incredible profits



OA titles (predatory
and non) need to
accept more articles
to fund themselves



The abundance of
OA titles plays into
the publish or perish
zeitgeist

Pause here



Definition of *integrity*

1 : firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values : incorruptibility

To what sort of science do I pledge my integrity to?



Source:

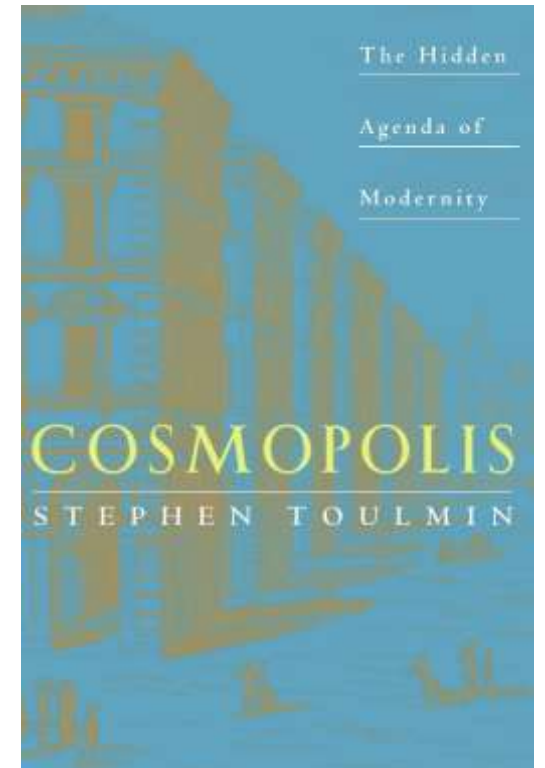
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John,_king_of_Scotland,_being_brought_before_Edward_I.png

If you are a scientist you were
nourished and trained in what Stephen
Toulmin calls 'The hidden agenda of
modernity'

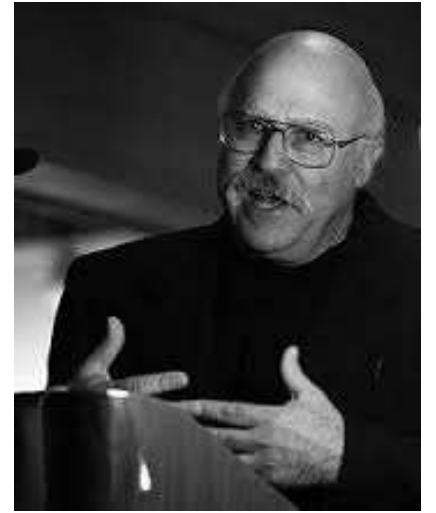
The vision of Cosmopolis, a society as
rationally ordered as the Newtonian
view of nature



Stephen Toulmin



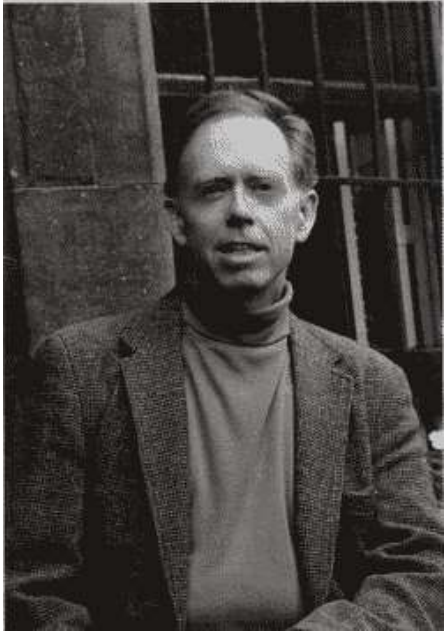
The dream was spectacularly successful, in all fields of endeavor, leading to what Steven Shapin calls ‘invisible science’



Steven Shapin

Steven Shapin, 2016, Invisible Science, The Hedgehog Review: Vol. 18 No. 3 (Fall 2016).

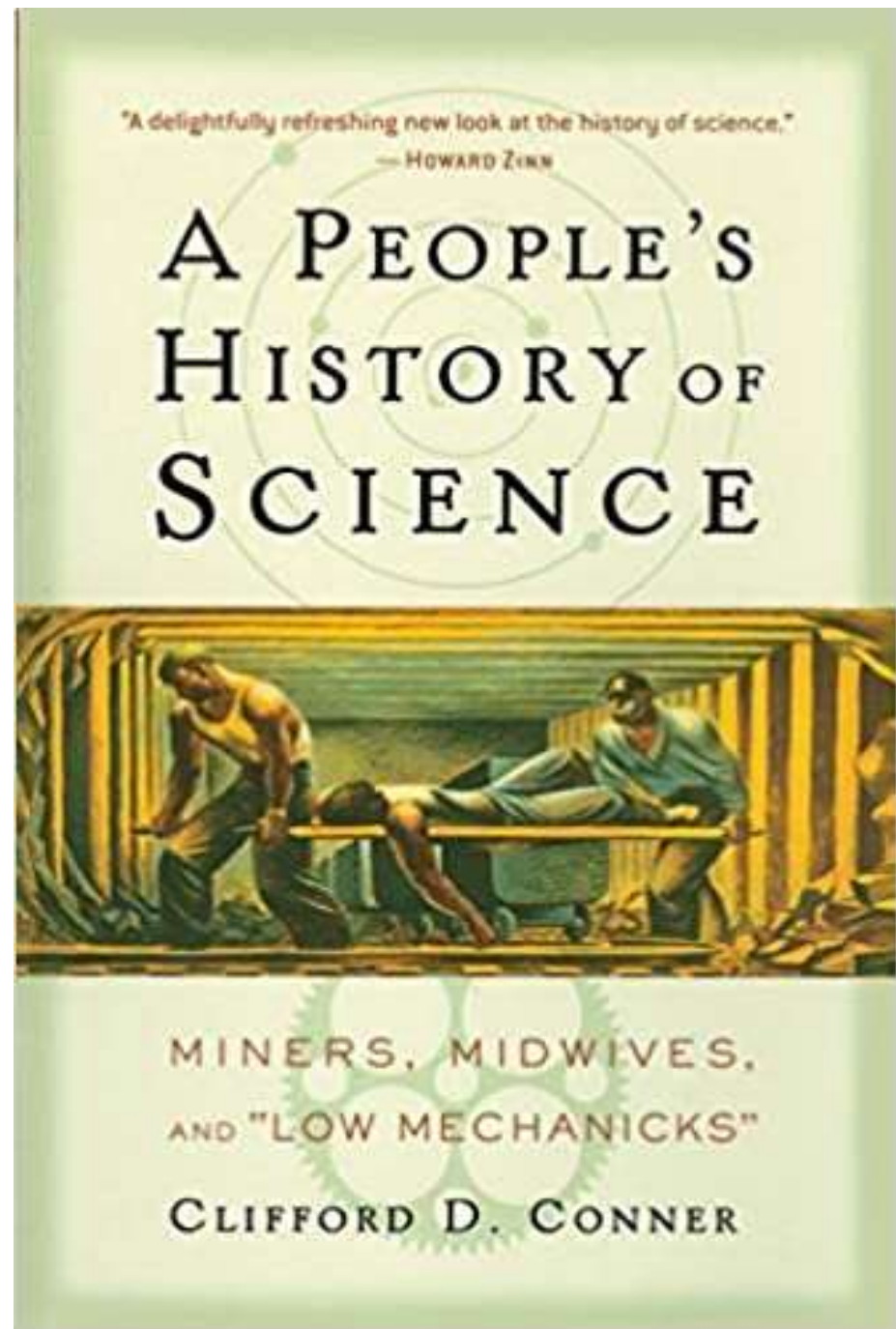
What is science?

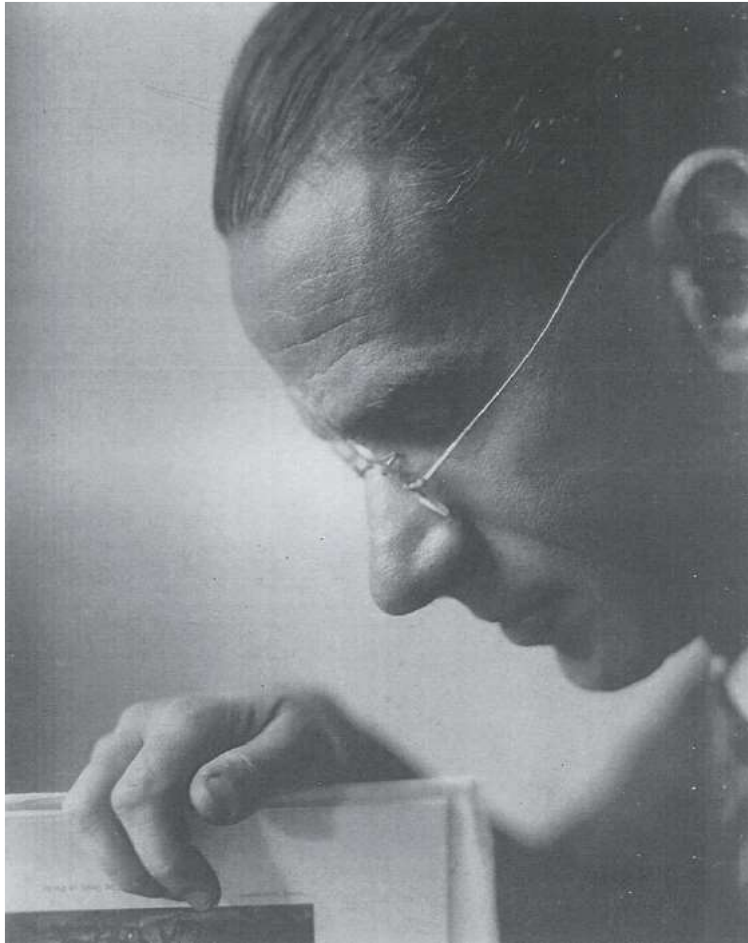


Clifford D. Conner

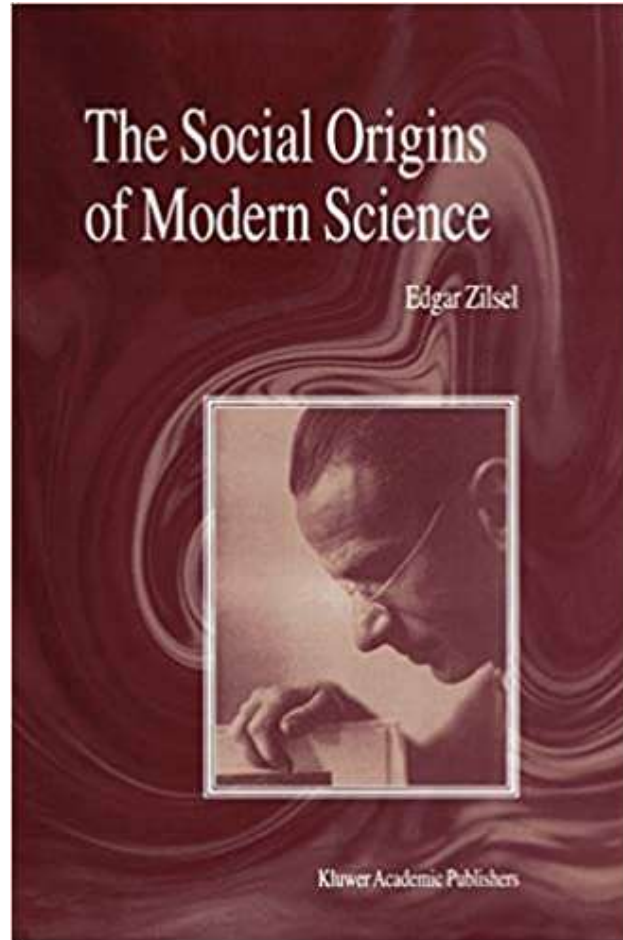
An antidote to a vision of the history of science as the fruit of the intuition of great (mostly) men

‘Knowing what’ was often only possible after ‘knowing how’ had been discovered





Edgar Zilsel
(1891–1944)



The Zilsel thesis:

- Superior artisans,
- Secular humanists,
- University scholars

“Science originates in urban cultures, money economy, market economy…”

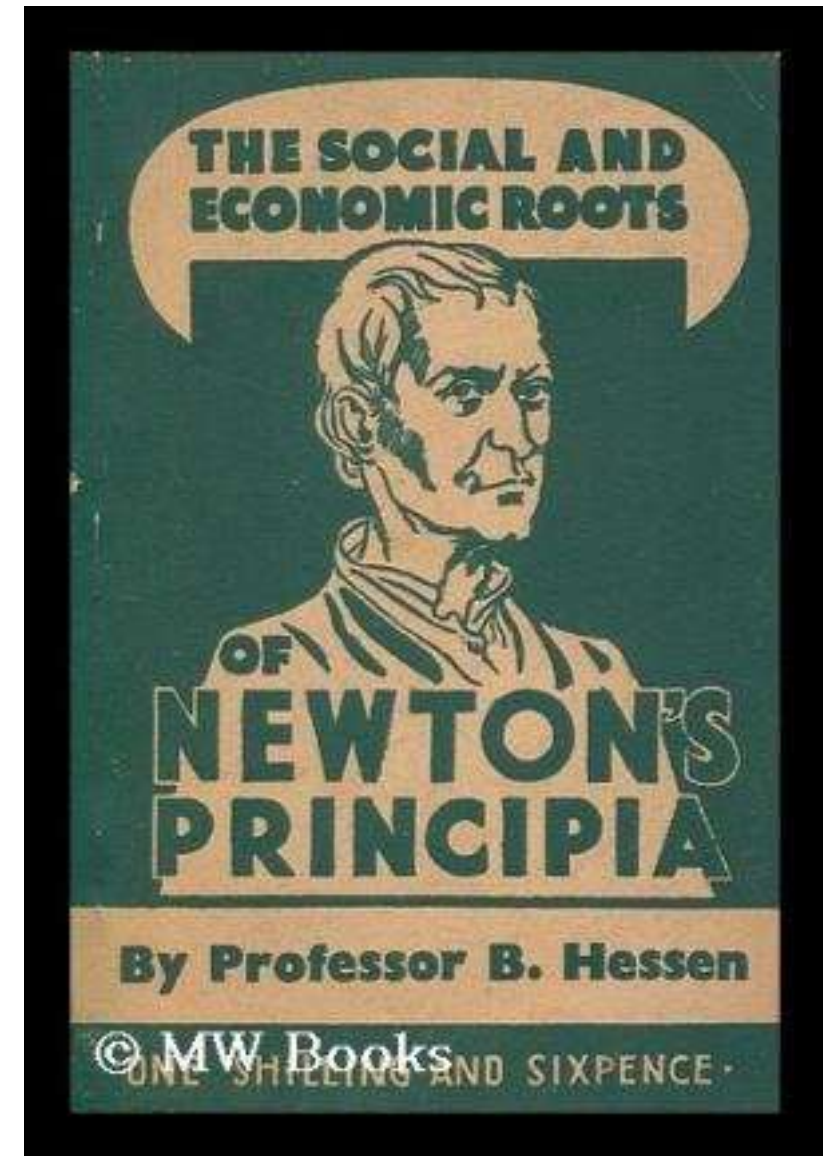


Boris Hessen
(1893–1936)

The Hessen thesis:

Science originates from the commercial and capitalistic needs of the XVII century nascent bourgeoisie ...

... not just from the work of 'great minds'



How about the way we
are taught our science?

Kuhn said that the “educational initiation that prepares and licenses the student for professional practice... is both rigorous and rigid”

and “It is a narrow and rigid education [in physics/science], probably more so than any other except perhaps in orthodox theology”



Thomas Kuhn, *The structure of scientific revolution*, 192, Chapters I and XIII

and “the member of a mature scientific community is, like the typical character of Orwell’s 1984, the victim of a history rewritten by the powers that be.”



Thomas Kuhn, *The structure of scientific revolution*, 192, Chapter XIII

What is science?

- The legacy of Enlightenment
- The way to emancipation and Bildung
- ...
- ...
- A tool of corporate power?

Sylvain Laurens

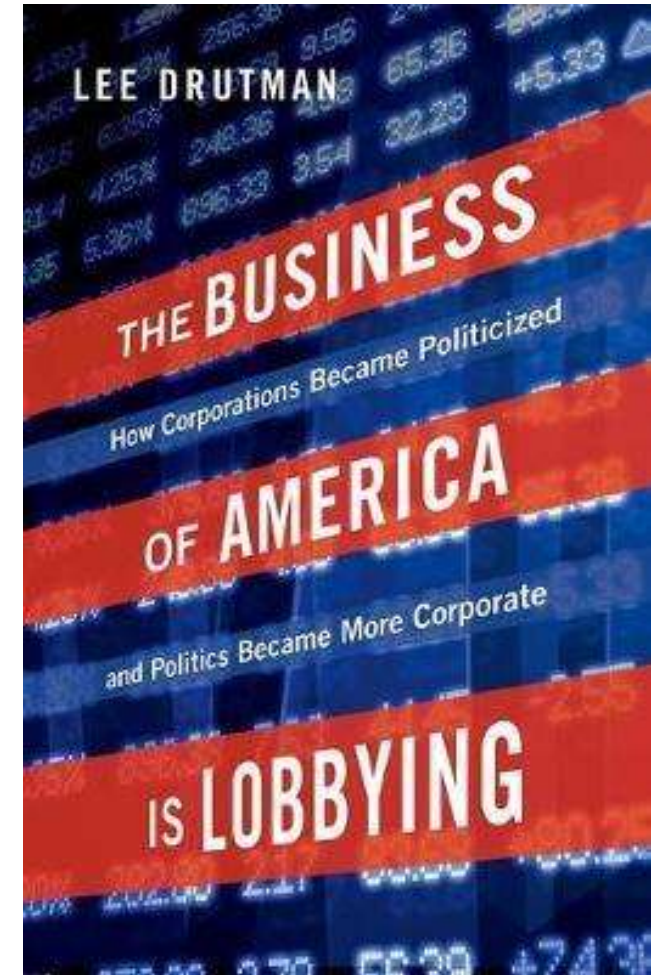


**LOBBYISTS AND
BUREAUCRATS IN BRUSSELS**
CAPITALISM'S BROKERS

Sylvain Laurens



Lee Drutman






Futures

Volume 135, January 2022, 102860



Science, the endless frontier of regulatory capture

Andrea Saltelli ^a  , Dorothy J. Dankel ^{b, c}, Monica Di Fiore ^d, Nina Holland ^e,
Martin Pigeon ^e



**MENOS
MEDICINA** | **MAS
SALUD**

Organización Civil Internacional por la transparencia, la integridad, la participación y la equidad en las políticas de salud, la asistencia sanitaria y la investigación biomédica.

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Los guardianes de la razón: Fact check, captura cultural e imaginario sociotécnico. Por Abel Nova

por nmurcia | Jun 9, 2021 | Regulación e Industria | 0 Comentarios



Abel Nova

<http://www.nogracias.org/2021/06/09/los-guardianes-de-la-razon-fact-check-captura-cultural-e-imaginario-sociotecnico-por-abel-nova/>

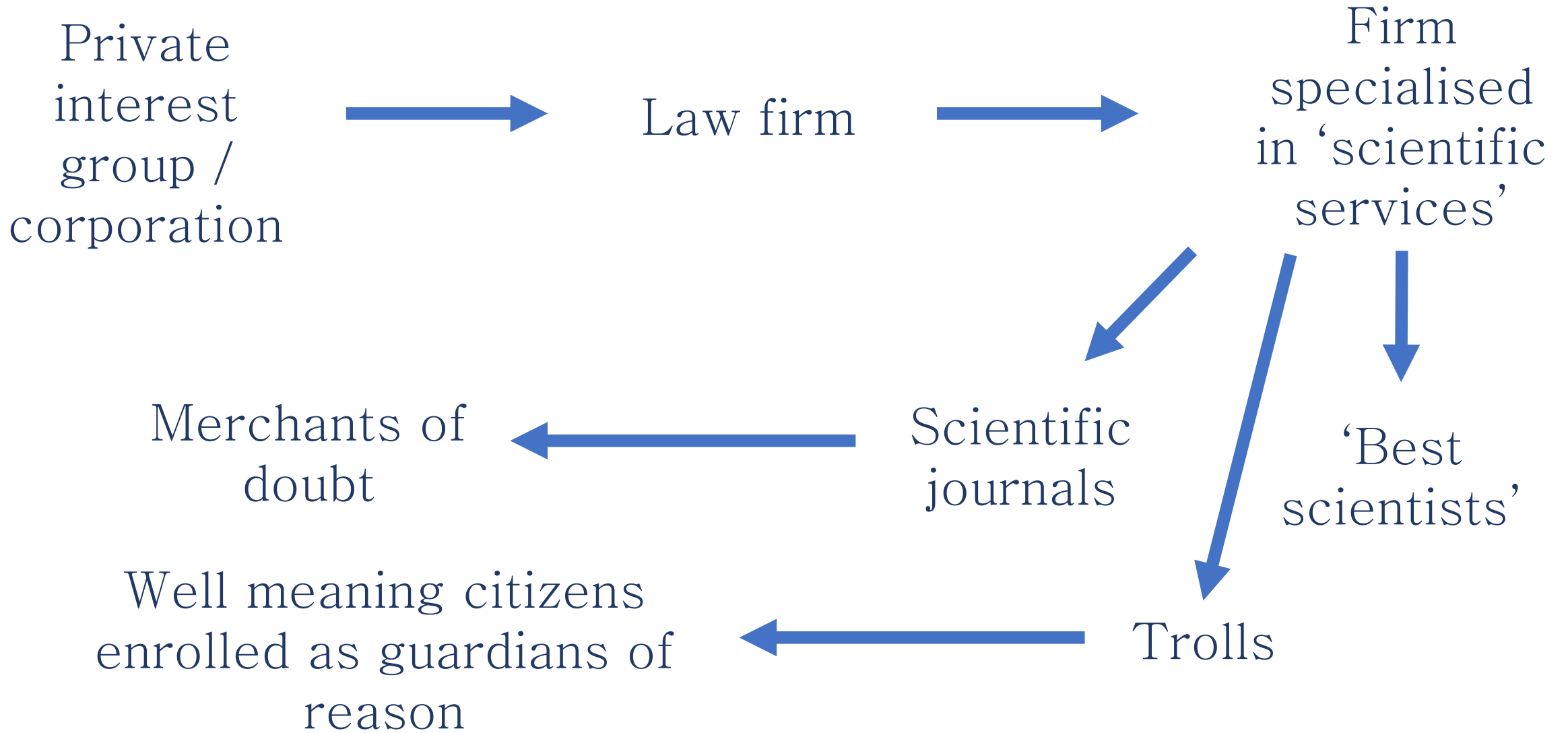
From the abstract:

... a form of corporate penetration which is based on a strategic use of the image and legitimacy of science

...cases where lobbyists present themselves as upholders of the values of the evidence-based policy, and interested in the methodological and ethical aspect of science for policy

From the abstract:

Epistemic ladder: lobbyists move from **questioning** the evidence to **questioning** its legitimacy, all the way to **creating** a worldview where not only the evidence, but the very idea of regulation, become irrelevant or undesirable



Decline in creativity

Papers and patents are becoming less disruptive over time

[Michael Park](#), [Erin Leahey](#) & [Russell J. Funk](#) 

[Nature](#) **613**, 138–144 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

249k Accesses | **11** Citations | **3936** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)



“progress is slowing in several major fields”



Source: <https://thebaffler.com/salvos/of-flying-cars-and-the-declining-rate-of-profit>



Definition of *integrity*

1 : firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values : incorruptibility

Wrapping up: what sort of science and what sort of integrity we embrace are related, non trivial questions

Pause here



Definition of *integrity*

2 : an unimpaired condition : soundness

As in 'the reactor vessel has not lost its integrity'

Predatory publishing?



Credit: David Parkins, Nature,
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-03759-y>

NEWS • 08 FEBRUARY 2021

Hundreds of ‘predatory’ journals indexed on leading scholarly database

Scopus has stopped adding content from most of the flagged titles, but the analysis highlights how poor-quality science is infiltrating literature.

[Dalmeet Singh Chawla](#)

Predatory: cloning existing journals



Recent cases:

- Talent Development and Excellence,
- Transylvanian Review
- Test Engineering and Management

<https://retractionwatch.com/2021/05/26/how-hijacked-journals-keep-fooling-one-of-the-worlds-leading-databases/>

Predatory publishers (the Achilles heel of the APC model)

Predatory open access publishers

<https://beallslist.net>

Beall was threatened by Omics International with a \$1billion lawsuit



Jeffrey Beall,
librarian,
University
of Colorado,
Denver

Dear Andrea Saltelli,

I hope everything is going well.



GAVIN PUBLISHERS

Google Cus

We cordial

As you bei

If you have

Hoping

- HOME
- OPEN ACCESS
- GAVIN JOURNALS ▾
- GAVIN CONFERENCES
- GUIDELINES ▾
- SUBMIT MANUSCRIPT
- E-BOOKS
- MEMBERSHIP
- CAREERS

Food & Nutrition Journal

ISSN: 2575-7091

SUBMIT MANUSCRIPT

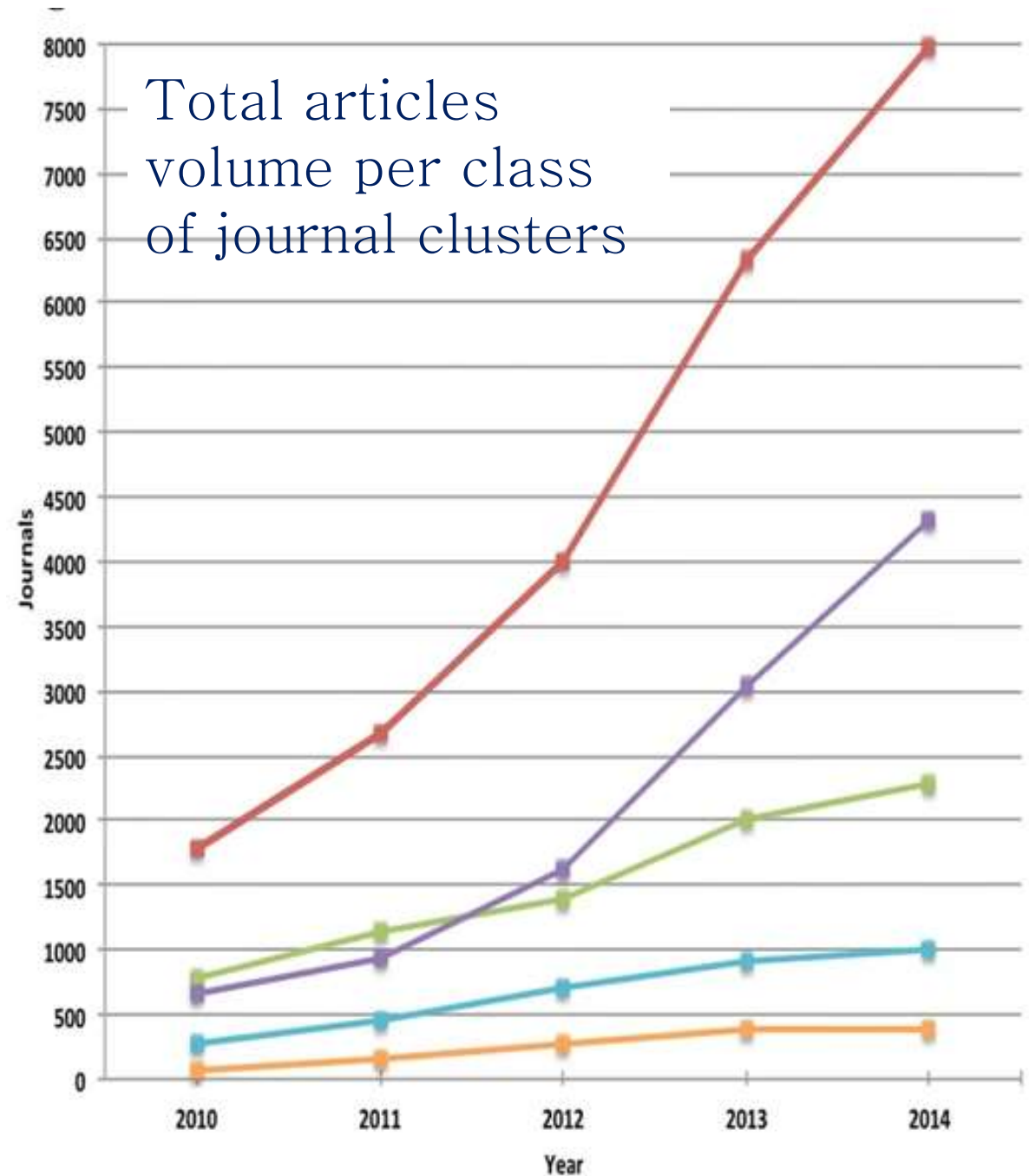
About the Journal

Journal Impact Factor 1.2*

Is on Beall's list ←

- *Genamics – JournalSeek
- *Academic Keys
- *ResearchBib - Academic Research Index
- *Free Medical Journals - Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research
- *International Innovative Journal Impact Factor (IIJIF)
- *Al-Azhar University
- *Open J-Gate
- * Directory of Journals indexing

C. Shen and B.-C. Björk, “‘Predatory’ open access: a longitudinal study of article volumes and market characteristics,” BMC Med., vol. 13, no. 1, p. 230, Dec. 2015.



Crisis of reproducibility

Failed replications, entire subfields going bad, fraudulent peer reviews, predatory publishers, perverse metrics, statistics on trial ...




Brow

OPEN ACCESS

ESSAY

June 21, 2017

Why Most Clinical Research Is Not Useful

John P. A. Ioannidis 

Published: June 21, 2016 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002049>

THE
ECONOMIC
JOURNAL



The Economic Journal, 127 (October), F236–F265. Doi: 10.1111/eoj.12461 © 2017 Royal Economic Society. Published by John Wiley & Sons, 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2DQ, UK and 350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148, USA.

THE POWER OF BIAS IN ECONOMICS RESEARCH*

John P. A. Ioannidis, T. D. Stanley and Hristos Doucouliagos

October 27, 2017



Futures

Volume 91, August 2017, Pages 5-11



What is science's crisis really about?

Andrea Saltelli ^{a, b}  , Silvio Funtowicz ^a



Futures

Volume 104, December 2018, Pages 85-90



Why science's crisis should not become a political battling ground

Andrea, Saltelli 



THE RIGHTFUL PLACE OF SCIENCE: **SCIENCE ON THE VERGE**

CONTRIBUTORS

Alice Benessia	Jerome R. Ravetz
Silvio Funtowicz	Andrea Saltelli
Mario Giampietro	Roger Strand
Ângela Guimarães Pereira	Jeroen P. van der Sluijs



Darwinian fitness of malpractices

Downloaded from <http://rsos.royalsocietypublishing.org/> on September 23, 2016

ROYAL SOCIETY
OPEN SCIENCE

rsos.royalsocietypublishing.org

Research



Cite this article: Smaldino PE, McElreath R.

2016 The natural selection of bad science.

R. Soc. open sci. **3**: 160384.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rsos.160384>

Received: 1 June 2016


Accepted: 17 August 2016

The natural selection of bad science

Paul E. Smaldino¹ and Richard McElreath²

¹Cognitive and Information Sciences, University of California, Merced, CA 95343, USA

²Department of Human Behavior, Ecology, and Culture, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany

 PES, 0000-0002-7133-5620; RME, 0000-0002-0387-5377

Poor research design and data analysis encourage false-positive findings. Such poor methods persist despite perennial calls for improvement, suggesting that they result from something more than just misunderstanding. The persistence of poor methods results partly from incentives that favour them, leading to the natural selection of bad science. This dynamic requires no conscious strategizing—no deliberate cheating nor loafing—by scientists, only that publication is a principal factor for

[redacted] As in the real world, successful labs produce more 'progeny,' such that their methods are more often copied and their students are more likely to start labs of their own. Selection for high output leads to poorer methods and increasingly high false discovery rates. [redacted]

[redacted] Improving the quality of research requires change at the institutional level.

Smaldino PE, McElreath R., 2016 The natural selection of bad science. R. Soc. open sci. 3: 160384. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rsos.160384>

Is the present publishing
system sound?

Opinion

Peer review and scientific publishing

Thu 13 Sep 2018

Scientific publishing is a rip-off. We fund the research - it should be free

George Monbiot



Those who take on the global industry that traps research behind paywalls are heroes, not thieves





I. Graber-Stiehl, “Science’s pirate queen,” *Verge*, Feb-2018.



Kazakhstani scientist
Alexandra Elbakyan



The long read

Is the staggeringly profitable business of scientific publishing bad for science?

Elsevier profits 2010 = £724m on £2bn revenue: a 36% margin – higher than Apple, Google, or Amazon

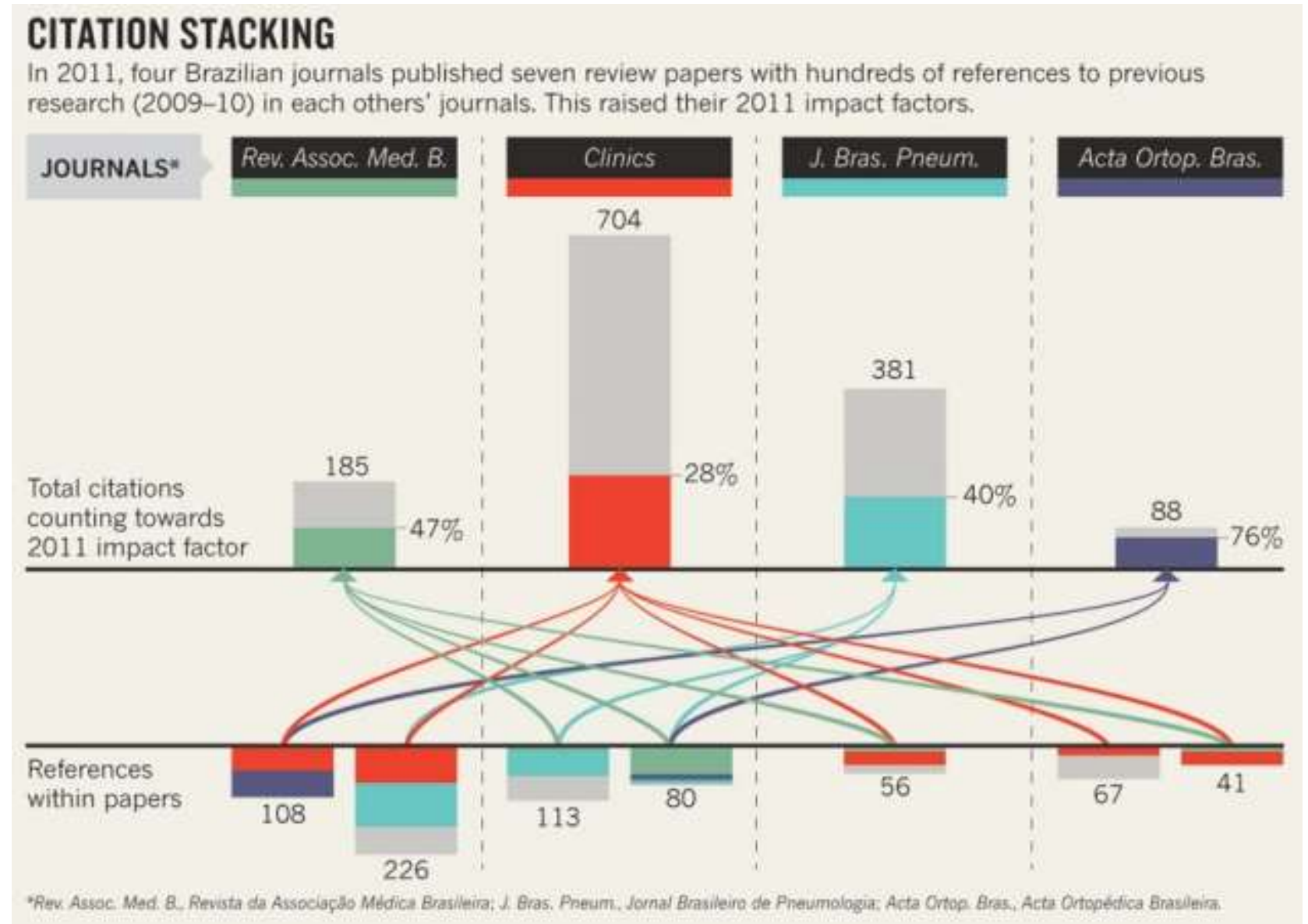
Stephen Buranyi, The Guardian, 27 Jun 2017.



A 2005 Deutsche Bank report referred to it as a “bizarre” “triple-pay” system, in which “the state funds most research, pays the salaries of most of those checking the quality of research, and then buys most of the published product”

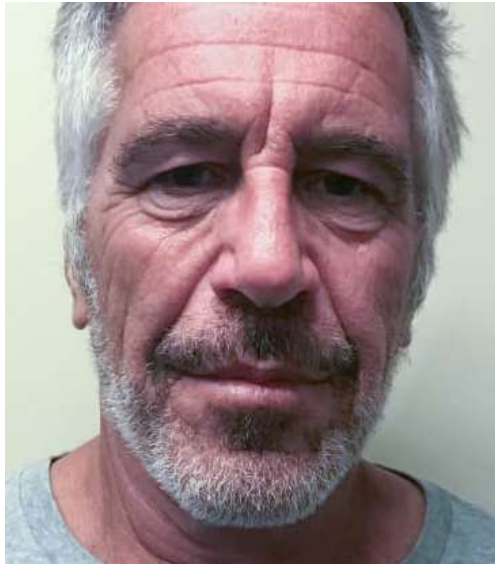
Stephen Buranyi, The Guardian, 27 Jun 2017.

Use and abuse of metrics: from self-citation to citation cartels to citation stacking



Richard Van Noorden, 2017, Brazilian citation scheme outed. Thomson Reuters suspends journals from its rankings for 'citation stacking'. Nature, 27 August 2013

Sound donations?



Jeffrey Epstein
& paedophilia



Sackler family
& opioids



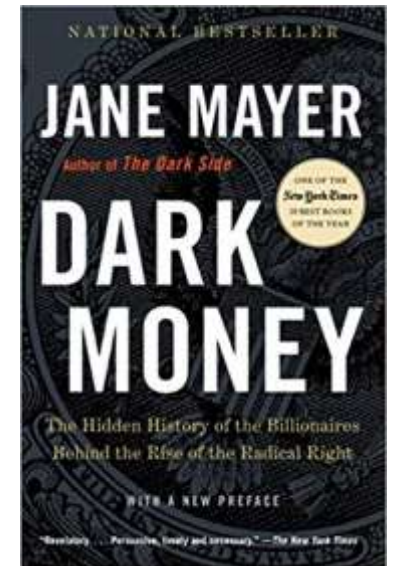
Koch brothers
& climate

How Rich Donors Like Epstein (and Others) Undermine Science

ADAM ROGERS

SCIENCE 09.15.2019 07:00 AM

WIRED



Is the grant
system sound?

- … researchers spend much of their research time writing research proposals
- … the costs of peer review and non-granted project applications are often higher than the total budget of a call
- … grants are preferentially allocated to well endowed labs and teams …
- … strategic behavior of evaluators
- … a system based on lotteries would be way more efficient



nature

NEWS • 20 NOVEMBER 2019

David Adam

Science funders gamble on grant lotteries

A growing number of research agencies are assigning money randomly.



What can one learn from the Health Research Council of New Zealand?



Research Policy

Volume 49, Issue 1, February 2020, 103831



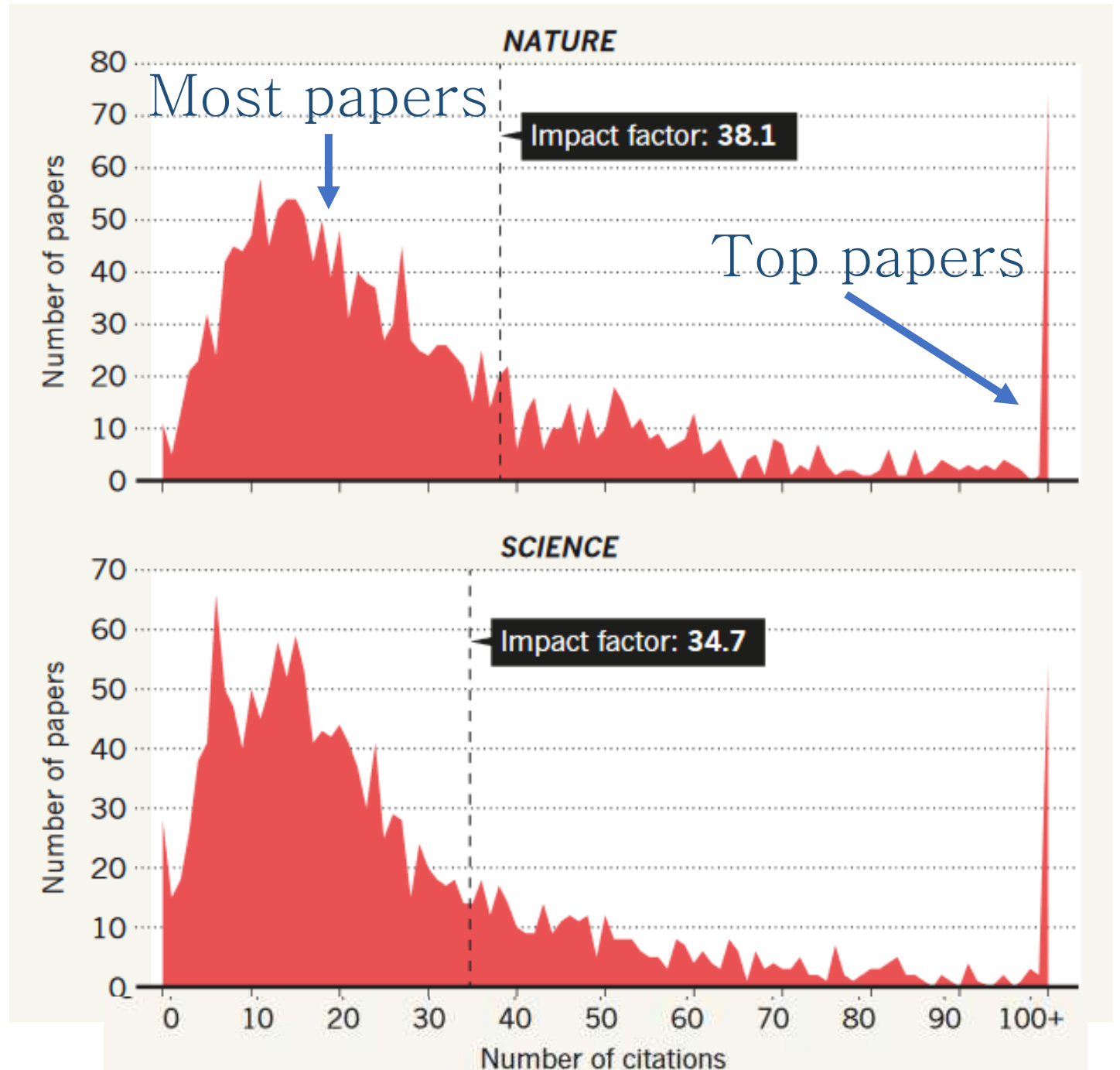
How to avoid borrowed plumes in academia

Margit Osterloh  , Bruno S. Frey 

The impact factor is a misleading measure
of the importance of an individual article.

The average paper is cited much less than the journal's impact factor

Source: E. Callaway, 2014
Publishing elite turns against impact factor, Nature, 535, 210–211.

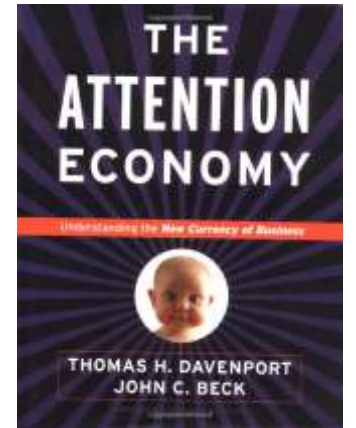


Pause here

The immodest scientist

Science, hype and brand

Humility in the age of the Attention Economy



<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/frank-fear/episodes/Professor-Adrian-Lenardic--Humility-in-the-Age-of-Attention-e1nufha>



Available on



Professor Adrian Lenardic, "Humility in the Age of ..."



UNDER THE RADAR with Host Frank Fear • Sep 16, 2022



00:47



Share

33:10

“Science based on a balance between individual and community interests.

The need for attention is tilting this balance by fostering hype, overselling, and the need to be right in scientific output”

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/355827593_The_Rise_of_the_Academic_Science_Humble_Brag



Office of the Provost: Building Your Professional Brand...

- ... an additional impetus for establishing a unique and memorable professional brand ...
- ... strategies for developing and leveraging your existing online presence to position you as thought leaders in an offline context



Rise of the Academic Science Humble Brag

Matter of Opinion

Adrian Lenardic,^{1,*} Johnny Seales,¹ and Alan Levander¹

Matter 5, 766–767, March 2, 2022 © 2022 Elsevier Inc.

I am honored and humbled to be only one of two people selected for a prestigious fellowship that had over a thousand applicants.

Courtesy of A.Lenardic

Bending to reviewer-coerced
citation or not?



NEWS • 06 FEBRUARY 2020

Highly cited researcher banned from journal board for citation abuse

Investigation finds that biophysicist Kuo-Chen Chou repeatedly suggested dozens of citations be added to papers.

[Richard Van Noorden](#)

Accepting a seducing salary ...
without too much thought?

U.S. Accuses Harvard Scientist of Concealing Chinese Funding



Prosecutors say Charles M. Lieber, the chair of Harvard's chemistry department, lied about concealing Chinese state-run initiative that seeks to draw top scientists to the U.S.

NEWS

Harvard Doesn't Have to Pay Legal Fees for Professor Convicted of Hiding Ties to China

BY LORA KORPAR ON 1/10/22 AT 5:02 PM EST



Jan. 28, 2020

Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/harvard-doesnt-have-pay-legal-fees-professor-convicted-hiding-ties-china-1667672>

... U.S. scientific luminaries was in ... false statement to federal authorities about his financial relationship with the Chinese ... Thousand Talents program”

\$50,000 monthly salary, \$150,000 in annual in living expenses and more than \$1.5 million for a second laboratory in Wuhan

Cutting corners or not?

Cargo-cult statistics and scientific crisis

Written by Philip B. Stark and Andrea Saltelli on 05 July 2018. Posted in [Science](#)



P-hacking,
HARKing, salami
slicing, ...

nature materials

Published: January 2005

The cost of salami slicing


Nature Materials 4, 1(2005) | [Cite this article](#)

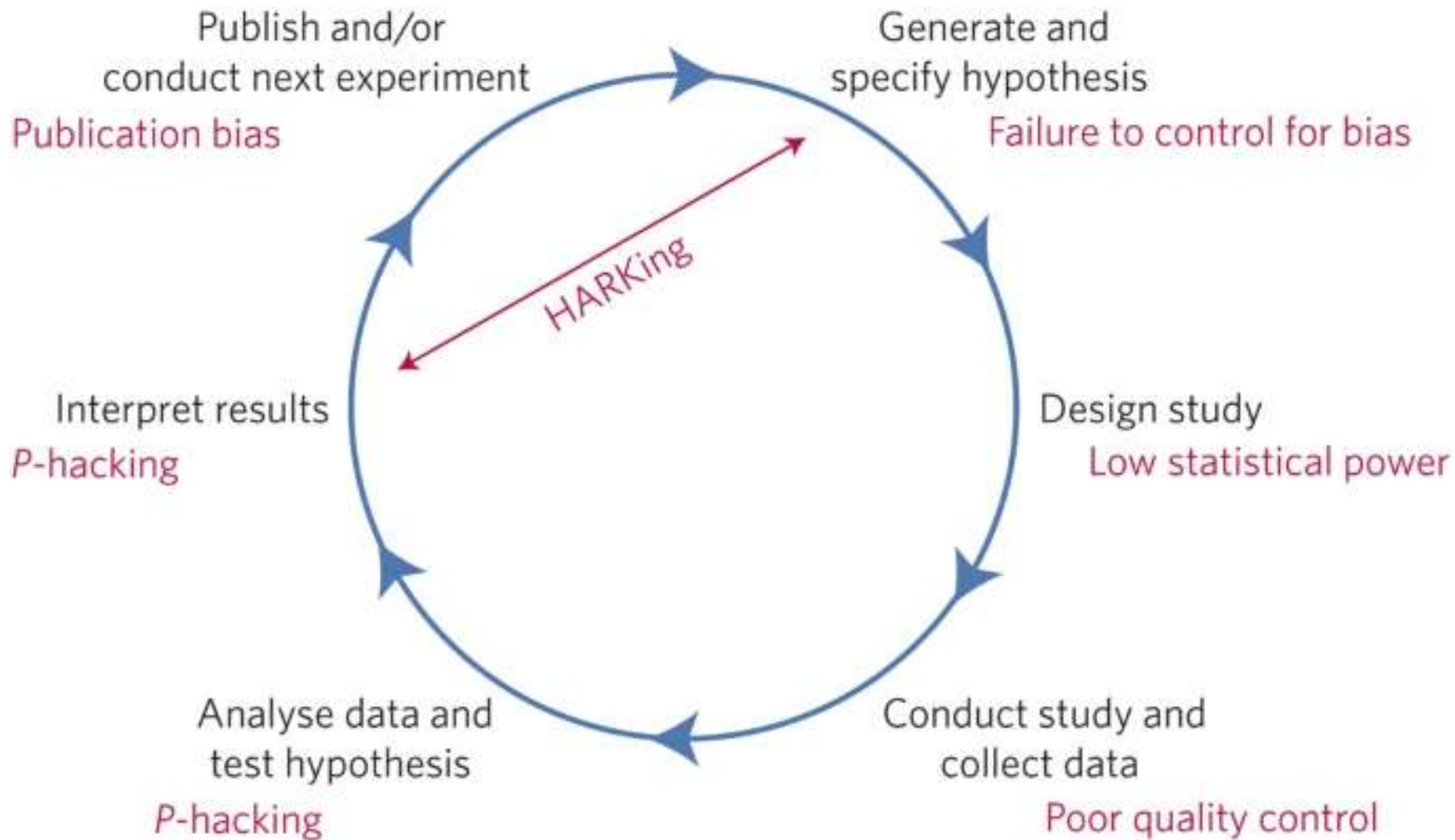


nature human behaviour

Open Access | Published: 10 January 2017

A manifesto for reproducible science

Marcus R. Munafò , Brian A. Nosek, Dorothy V. M. Bishop, Katherine S. Button, Christopher D. Chambers, Nathalie Percie du Sert, Uri Simonsohn, Eric-Jan Wagenmakers, Jennifer J. Ware & John P. A. Ioannidis



Are the numbers you produce responsible?

Models 'too big to fail'

Five ways to ensure that models serve society: a manifesto

Pandemic politics highlight how predictions need to be transparent and humble to invite insight, not blame.

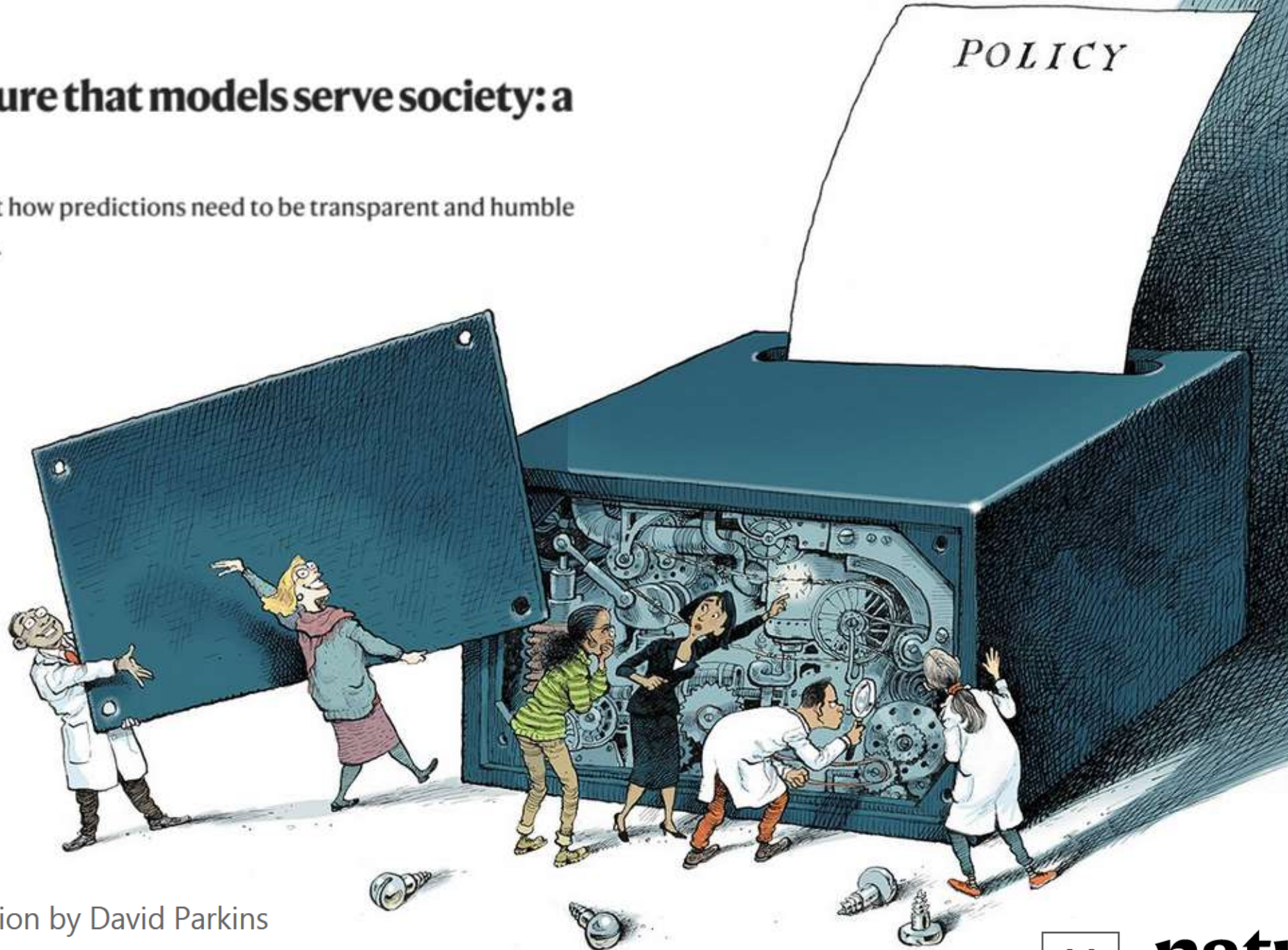


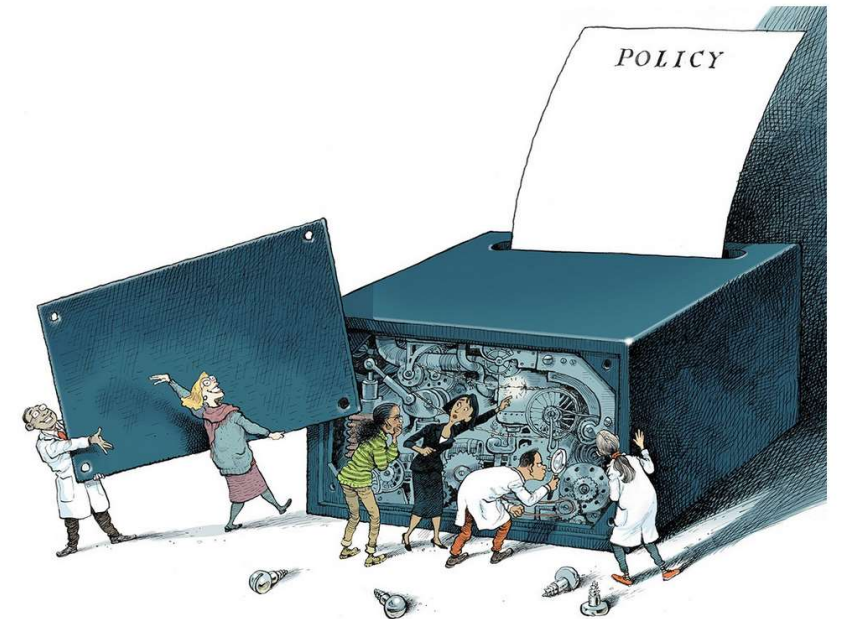
Illustration by David Parkins



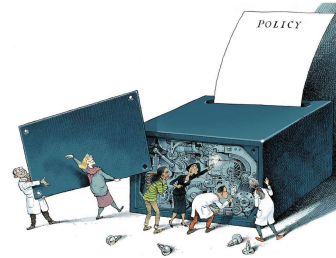
Five ways to ensure that models serve society: a manifesto

Pandemic politics highlight how predictions need to be transparent and humble to invite insight, not blame.

[Andrea Saltelli](#) ✉, [Gabriele Bammer](#), [Isabelle Bruno](#), [Erica Charters](#), [Monica Di Fiore](#), [Emmanuel Didier](#), [Wendy Nelson Espeland](#), [John Kay](#), [Samuele Lo Piano](#), [Deborah Mayo](#), [Roger Pielke Jr](#), [Tommaso Portaluri](#), [Theodore M. Porter](#), [Arnald Puy](#), [Ismael Rafols](#), [Jerome R. Ravetz](#), [Erik Reinert](#), [Daniel Sarewitz](#), [Philip B. Stark](#), [Andrew Stirling](#), [Jeroen van der Sluijs](#) & [Paolo Vineis](#)



COVID-19 policies dictated by
'science' with several digits
precision in the presence of
fundamental uncertainties



Undocumented research code used
as a policy tool (chameleon models)



Pfleiderer, P. Chameleons: The Misuse of Theoretical Models in Finance and
Economics. *Economica* 87, 81–107 (2020).

Contradictions in the unintended
effects of reforms?

Good intentions going bad

TABLE 1. GROWING PERVERSE INCENTIVES IN ACADEMIA

<i>Incentive</i>	<i>Intended effect</i>	<i>Actual effect</i>
“Researchers rewarded for increased number of publications.”	“Improve research productivity,” provide a means of evaluating performance.	“Avalanche of” substandard, “incremental papers”; poor methods and increase in false discovery rates leading to a “natural selection of bad science” (Smaldino and McElreath, 2016); reduced quality of peer review
“Researchers rewarded for increased number of citations.”	Reward quality work that influences others.	Extended reference lists to inflate citations; reviewers request citation of their work through peer review
“Researchers rewarded for increased grant funding.”	“Ensure that research programs are funded, promote growth, generate overhead.”	Increased time writing proposals and less time gathering and thinking about data. Overselling positive results and downplay of negative results.
Increase PhD student productivity	Higher school ranking and more prestige of program.	Lower standards and create oversupply of PhDs. Postdocs often required for entry-level academic positions, and PhDs hired for work MS students used to do.
Reduced teaching load for research-active faculty	Necessary to pursue additional competitive grants.	Increased demand for untenured, adjunct faculty to teach classes.
“Teachers rewarded for increased student evaluation scores.”	“Improved accountability; ensure customer satisfaction.”	Reduced course work, grade inflation.
“Teachers rewarded for increased student test scores.”	“Improve teacher effectiveness.”	“Teaching to the tests; emphasis on short-term learning.”
“Departments rewarded for increasing U.S. News ranking.”	“Stronger departments.”	Extensive efforts to reverse engineer, game, and cheat rankings.
“Departments rewarded for increasing numbers of BS, MS, and PhD degrees granted.”	“Promote efficiency; stop students from being trapped in degree programs; impress the state legislature.”	“Class sizes increase; entrance requirements” decrease; reduce graduation requirements.
“Departments rewarded for increasing student credit/contact hours (SCH).”	“The university’s teaching mission is fulfilled.”	“SCH-maximization games are played”: duplication of classes, competition for service courses.

Modified from Roehrborn (more: comm. 2015) with permission

Academic Research in the 21st Century: Maintaining Scientific Integrity in a Climate of Perverse Incentives and Hyper-competition, Marc A. Edwards and Siddhartha Roy, ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING SCIENCE, 34(1), 2017

Incentive

“Researchers rewarded for increased number of publications.”

Intended effect

“Improve research productivity,” provide a means of evaluating performance.

Actual effect

“Avalanche of” substandard, “incremental papers”; poor methods and increase in false discovery rates leading to a “natural selection of bad science” (Smaldino and McElreath, 2016); reduced quality of peer review

Incentive

“Researchers rewarded for increased number of citations.”

Intended effect

Reward quality work that influences others.

Actual effect

Extended reference lists to inflate citations; reviewers request citation of their work through peer review

Academic Research in the 21st Century: Maintaining Scientific Integrity in a Climate of Perverse Incentives and Hyper-competition, Marc A. Edwards and Siddhartha Roy, ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING SCIENCE, 34(1), 2017

Incentive

“Researchers rewarded for increased grant funding.”

Intended effect

“Ensure that research programs are funded, promote growth, generate overhead.”

Actual effect

Increased time writing proposals and less time gathering and thinking about data. Overselling positive results and downplay of negative results.

Incentive

Increase PhD student productivity

Actual effect

Intended effect

Lower standards and create oversupply of PhDs. Postdocs often required for entry-level academic positions, and PhDs hired for work MS students used to do.

Higher school ranking and more prestige of program.

Academic Research in the 21st Century: Maintaining Scientific Integrity in a Climate of Perverse Incentives and Hyper-competition, Marc A. Edwards and Siddhartha Roy, ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING SCIENCE, 34(1), 2017

Incentive

“Teachers rewarded for increased student test scores.”

“Departments rewarded for increasing U.S. News ranking.”

Intended effect

“Improve teacher effectiveness.”

“Stronger departments.”

Actual effect

“Teaching to the tests; emphasis on short-term learning.”

Extensive efforts to reverse engineer, game, and cheat rankings.



Definition of *integrity*

2 : an unimpaired condition : soundness

Wrapping up: The science we receive in heritage from our fathers has aspects which are unsound

Pause here



Definition of *integrity*

3 : the quality or state of being complete or undivided : completeness

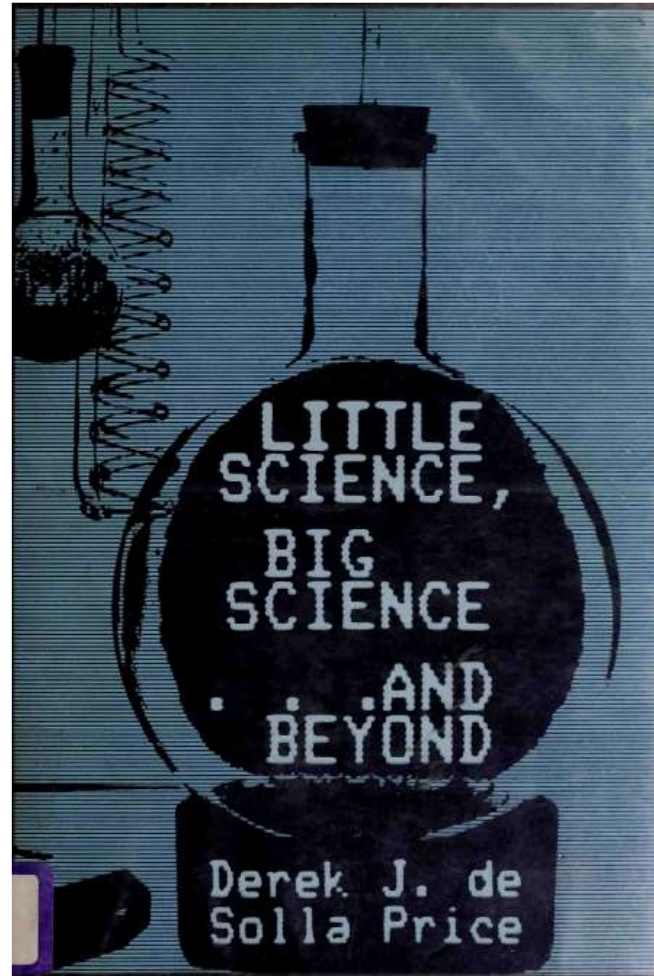
As in ‘the manuscript has arrived to us in its integrity’

Has the 'manuscript' of science arrived in its integrity?

If not, what has gone lost?

- 1) Science as (small) communities of peers
- 2) Science as a self ruled republic

In 1963 Derek J. de Solla Price prophesized that Science would reach saturation (and in the worst case senility) under its own weight, victim of its own success and exponential growth (pp 1-32)



Derek J. de Solla Price

de Solla Price, D.J., 1963, Little science big science, Columbia University Press.

~ 2.2 million
articles a year
(2016) over
~ 30,000 journals

newsblog

Nature brings you breaking news from the world of science

NEWS BLOG

Global scientific output doubles every nine years

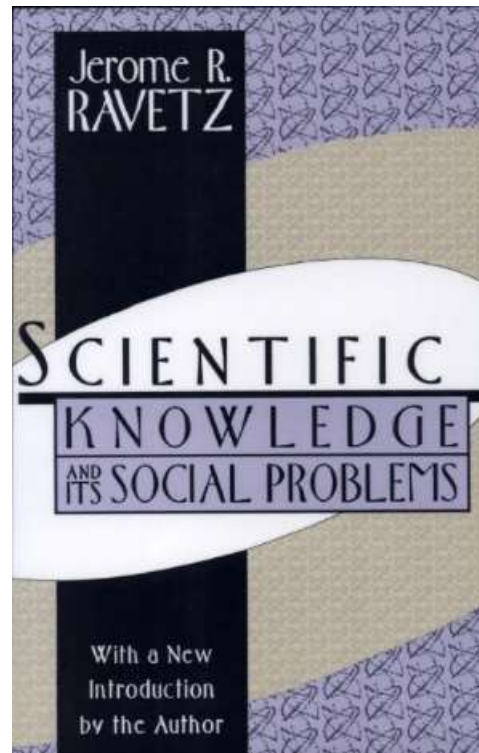
07 May 2014 | 16:46 GMT | Posted by Richard Van
Noorden | Category: Policy, Publishing

<https://www.aje.com/en/arc/scholarly-publishing-trends-2016/>

<http://blogs.nature.com/news/2014/05/global-scientific-output-doubles-every-nine-years.html>

p.22: [...] The problem of quality control in science is at the centre of the social problems of the industrialized science of the present period.”

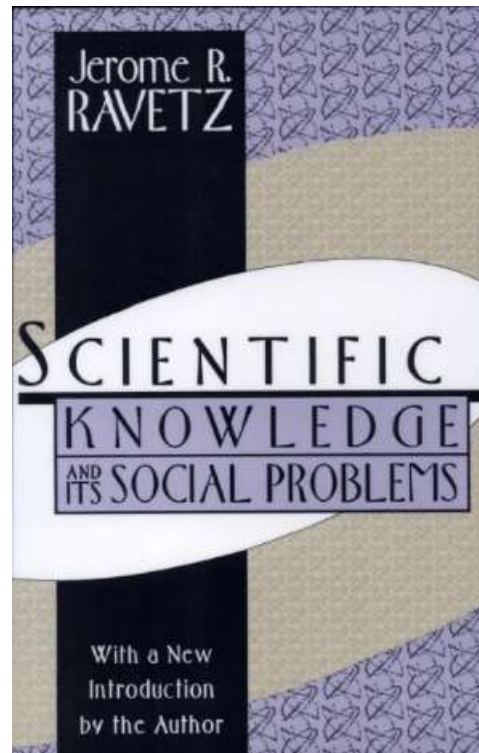
Ravetz, J., 1971, *Scientific Knowledge and its Social Problems*, Oxford University Press.



Jerome R.
Ravetz

“If [science] fails to resolve this problem [...] then the immediate consequences for morale and recruitment will be serious; and those for the survival of science itself, grave”

Ravetz, J., 1971, *Scientific Knowledge and its Social Problems*, Oxford University Press.



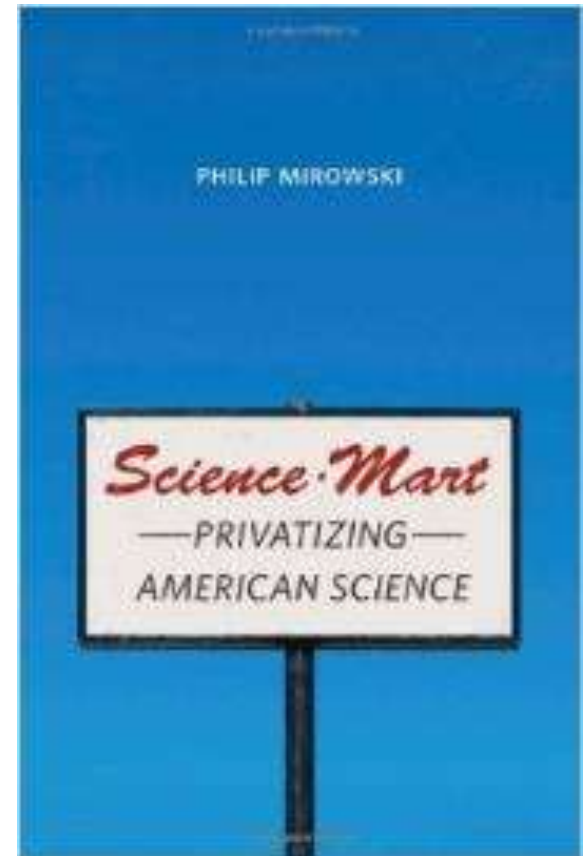
Jerome R.
Ravetz

… neoliberal ideologies lead to decreasing state funding of science, which becomes privatized … knowledge as a monetized commodity replaces knowledge as a public good → collapse of quality



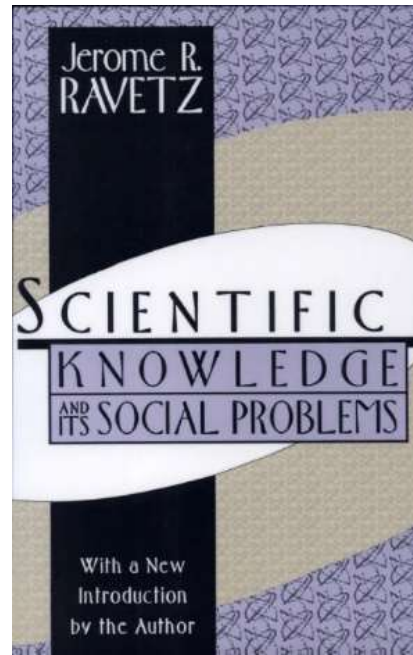
Philip Mirowski

Mirowski, P. 2011. *Science-Mart: Privatizing American Science*, Harvard University Press.



p. 179. For it is possible for a field to be diseased [...] reforming a diseased field is a task of great delicacy [...] not even an apparatus of institutional structures can do anything to maintain or restore the health of a field **in the absence of an essential ethical element operating through the interpersonal channel of communication.**

Ravetz, J., 1971, *Scientific Knowledge and its Social Problems*, Oxford University Press.



Jerome R.
Ravetz

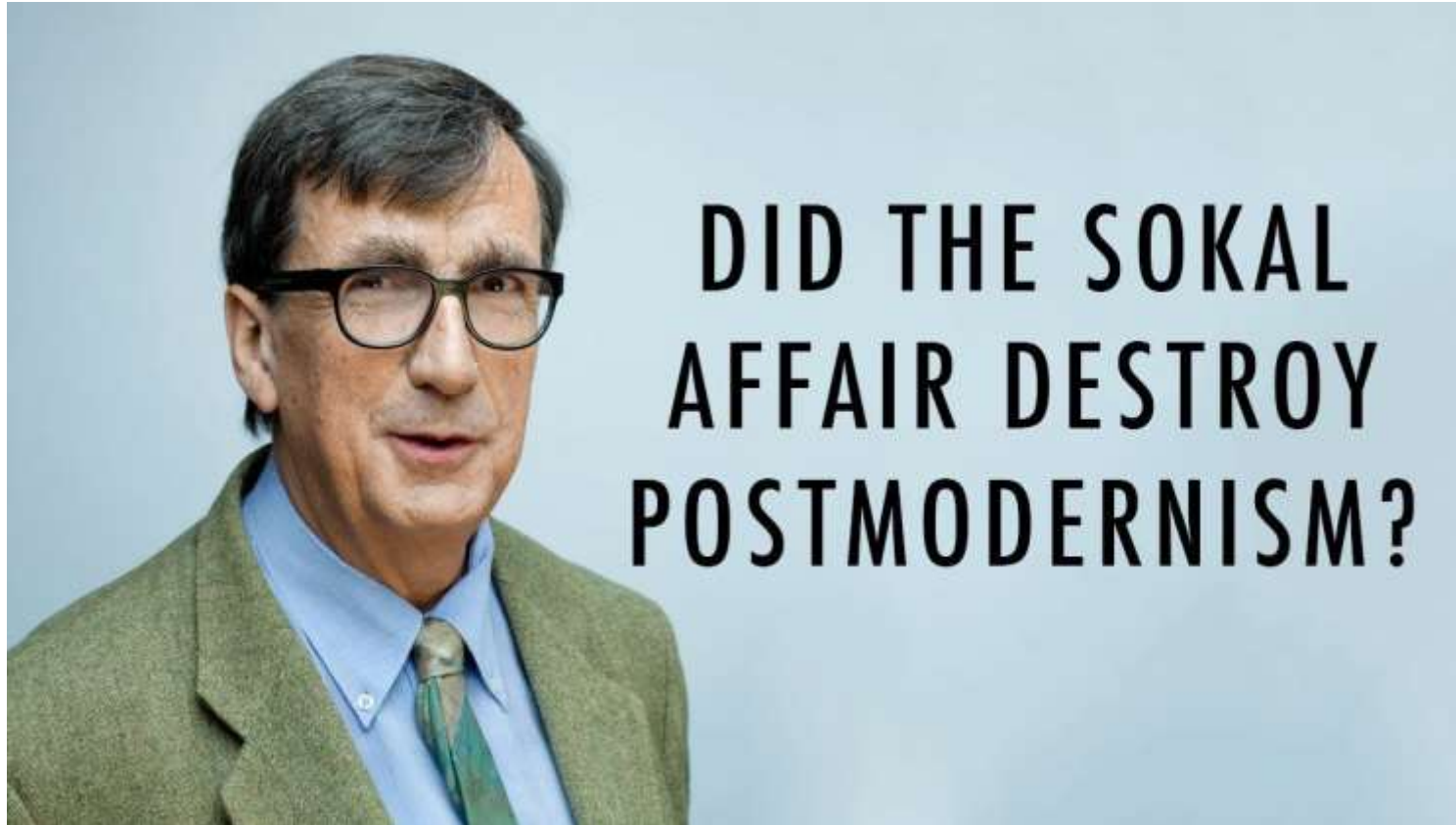
Science is divided: the Sokal affair (1996)



The birth of 'scholarly hoax'

"Transgressing the
Boundaries: Towards a
Transformative Hermeneutics
of Quantum Gravity"

The hoax generated soul searching in the community of science and technology studies



Bruno Latour, source <https://medium.com/the-humanities-in-transition/part-1-sokals-hoax-371af59bde3f>

The Conceptual Penis as a Social Construct: A Sokal-Style Hoax on Gender Studies

BY PETER BOGHOSSIAN, ED.D. (AKA PETER BOYLE, ED.D.)

AND JAMES LINDSAY, PH.D. (AKA, JAMIE LINDSAY, PH.D.)

Source: https://www.skeptic.com/reading_room/conceptual-penis-social-construct-sokal-style-hoax-on-gender-studies/

Another hoax
in 2018
(aka: Sokal-squared)

HOME \ CULTURE

Grievance Studies exposes college corruption with hoax papers

The Washington Times

America's Newspaper

Source: <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/oct/3/grievance-studies-exposes-college-corruption-hoax-/>

Beryl L. Crowe: “two insular scientific communities – the natural and the social-between which there is very little communication and a great deal of envy, suspicion, disdain, and competition for scarce resources”

**The Tragedy of the
Commons Revisited**

28 November 1969, Volume 166, Number 3909

SCIENCE

Beryl L. Crowe: “Perhaps the major problems of modern society have, in large part, been allowed to develop and intensify through this structure of insularity and specialization”

**The Tragedy of the
Commons Revisited**

28 November 1969, Volume 166, Number 3909

SCIENCE



Definition of *integrity*

3 : the quality or state of being complete or undivided : completeness

Wrapping up: science is not in 'one piece'

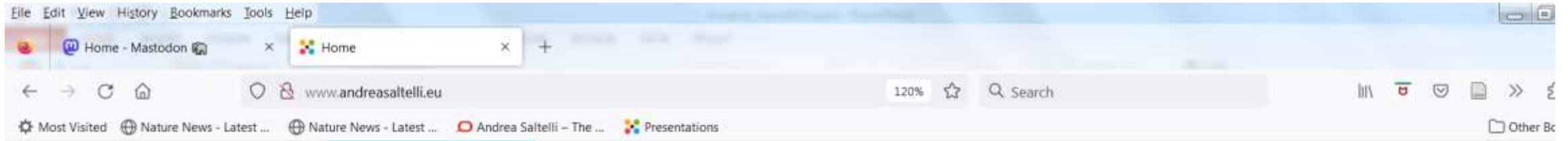
Epilogue

Science's integrity has implications for society

Those implications are unfolding at an unprecedented rate

...but this is another lecture!

More material @ andreasaltelli.eu



HOME ABOUT ME PUBLICATIONS NEWS & VIDEOS RESOURCES

Coming Out Soon: The politics of modelling



Praise for the volume

"A long awaited examination of the role —and obligation —of modeling."

Nassim Nicholas Taleb, Distinguished Professor of Risk Engineering, NYU Tandon School of Engineering. Author, of the 5 -volume series *Incerto*.

"A breath of fresh air and a much needed

Mastodon Toots by

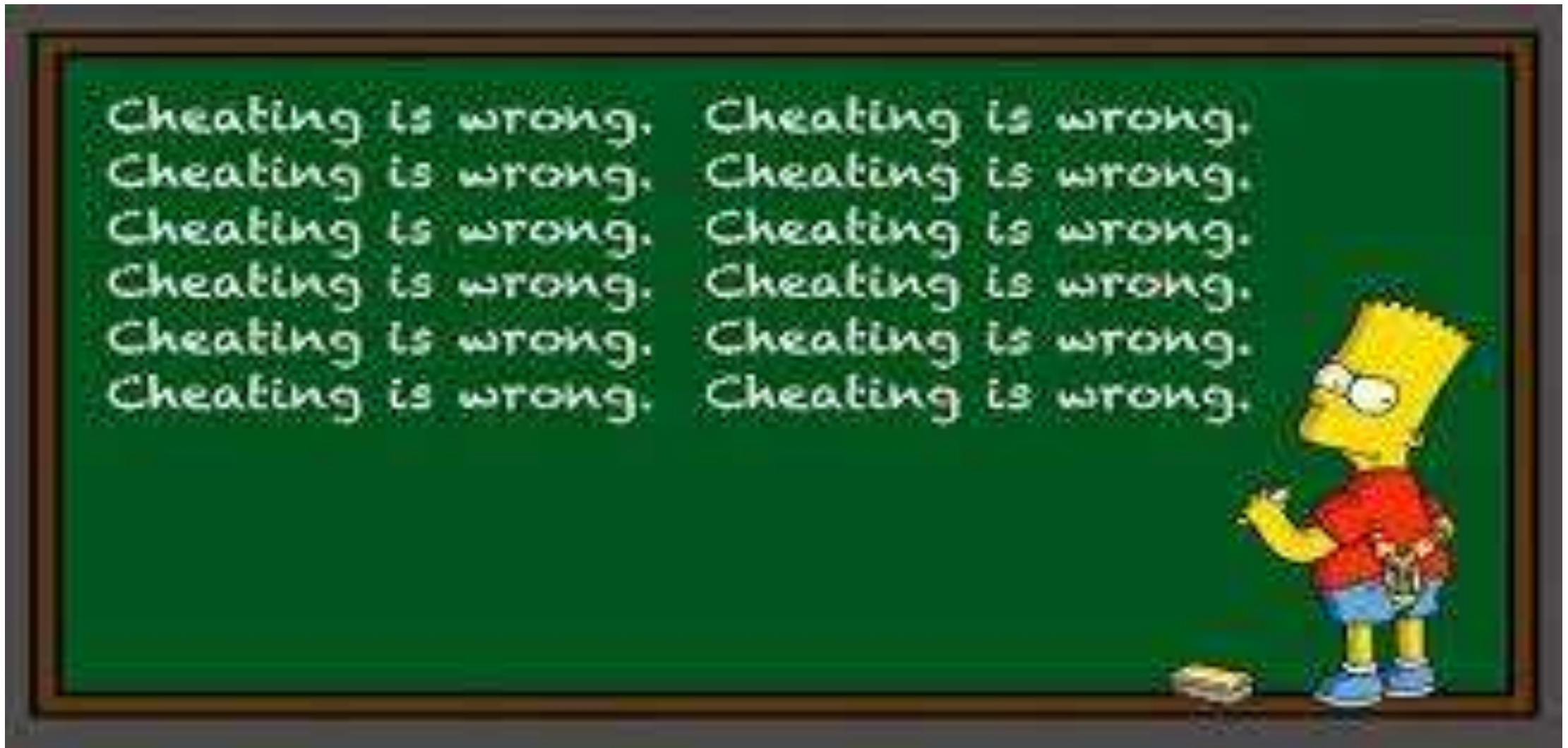
@AndreaSaltelli



AndreaSaltelli

2023/4/18 17:24

"Kaufman, who was until recently a senior climate economist in the White House, questioned the need for the government to set a single price. Regulators should stop "pretending we



E N D

Source: The Simpsons, Twentieth Century
Fox Film Corporation