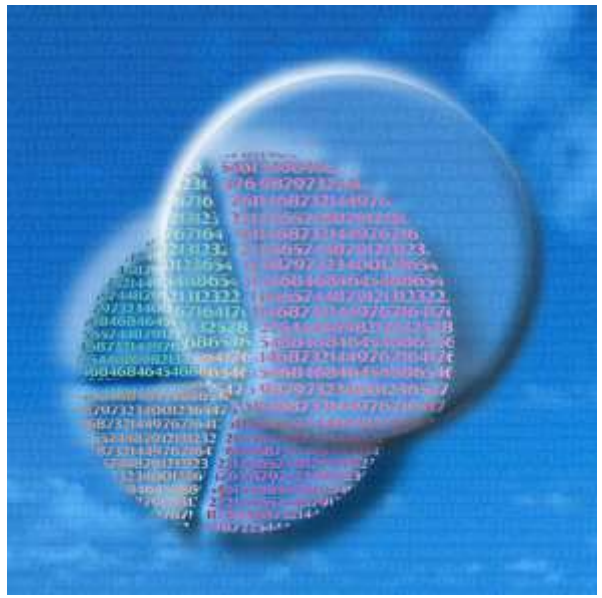


Course: Numbers for policy: Practical problems in quantification: the context

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Edifici B3, Parc Mediterrani de la Tecnologia, Avinguda Carl Friedrich Gauss, 5, 08860, Castelldefels (Barcelona), November 18-21, 2019

Andrea Saltelli

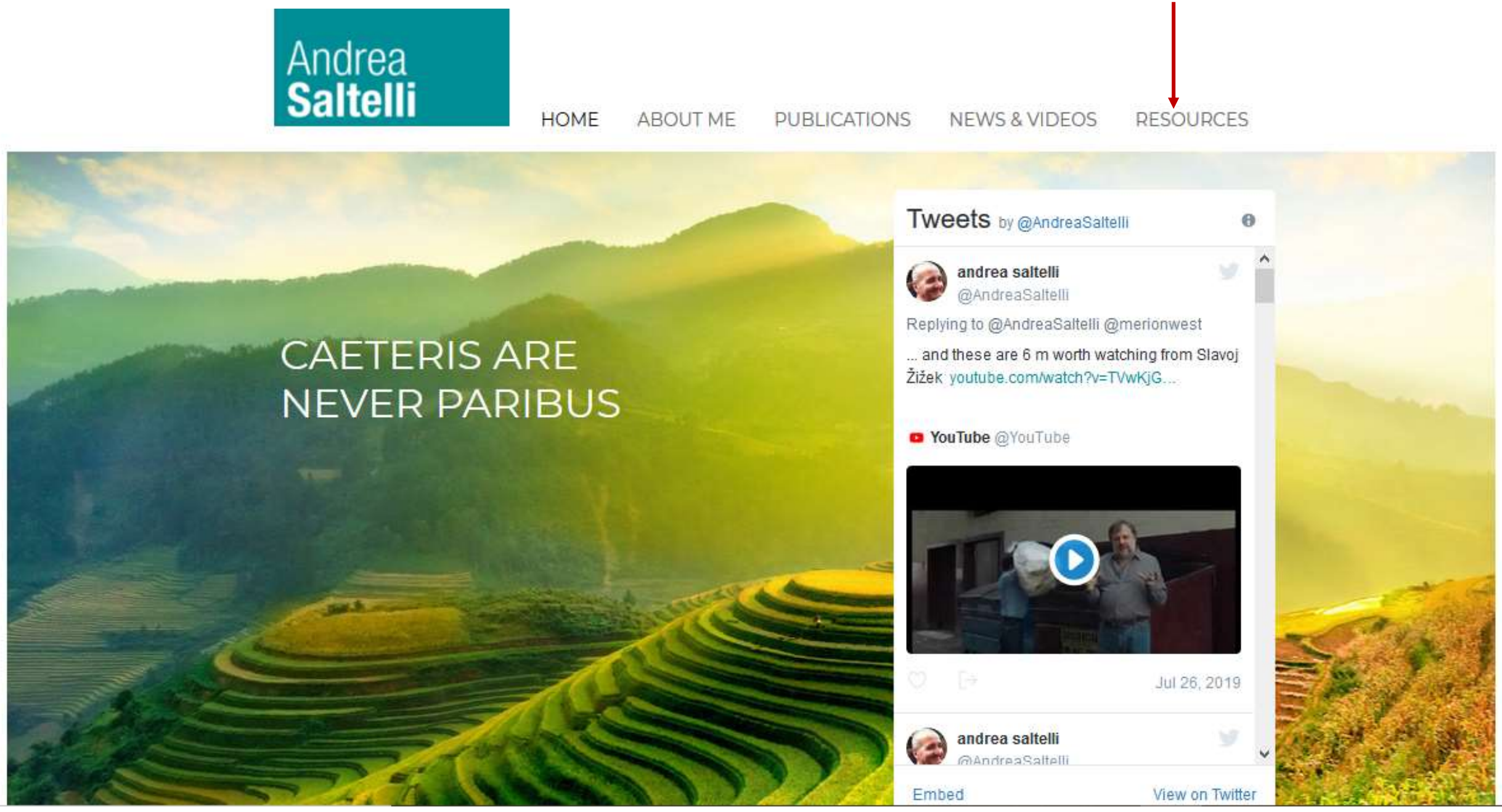
Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities, University of Bergen, and Open Evidence Research, Open University of Catalonia

UNIVERSITAS BERGENSIS

OPEN EVIDENCE

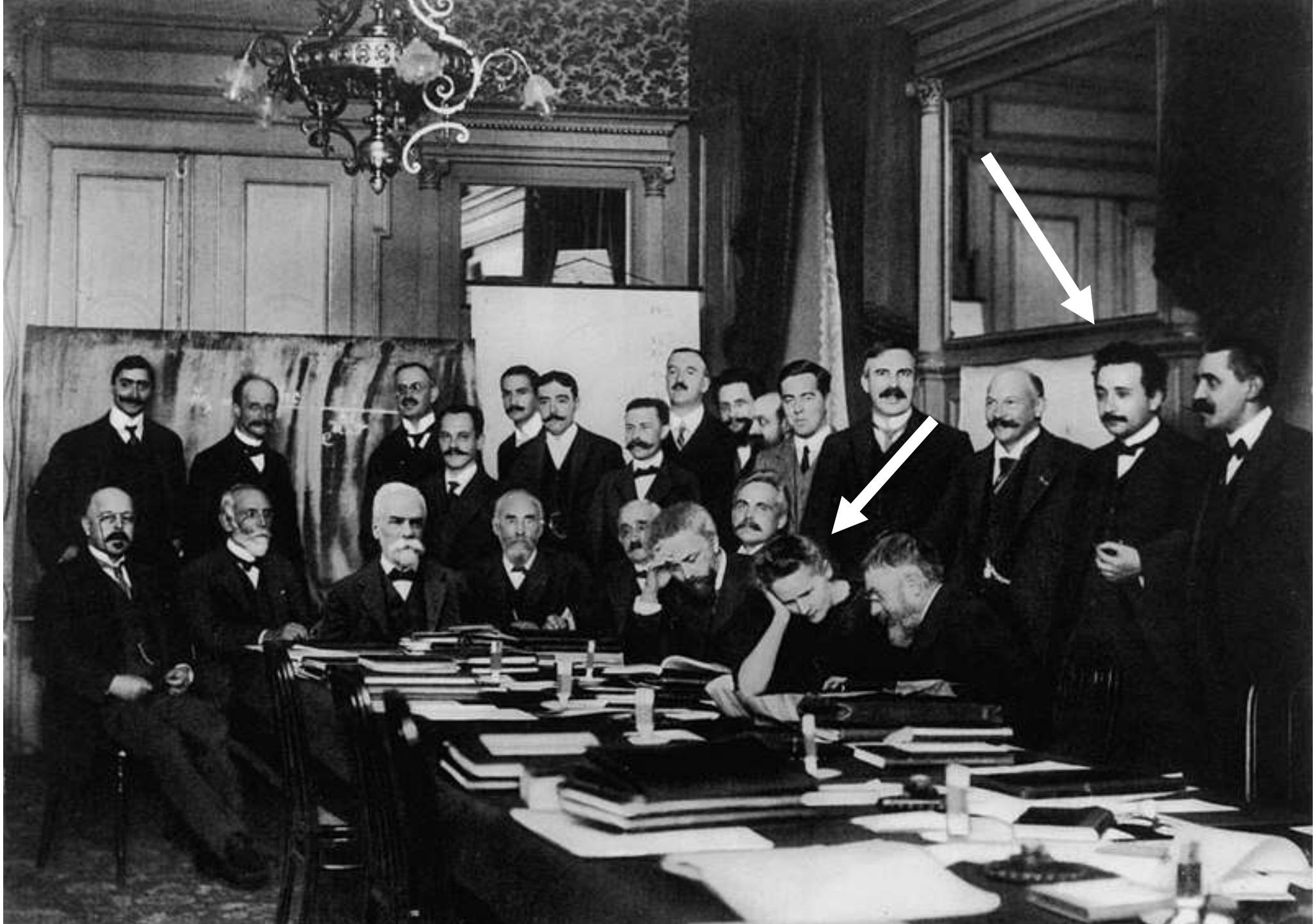
UOC Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Where to find this talk: www.andreasaltelli.eu

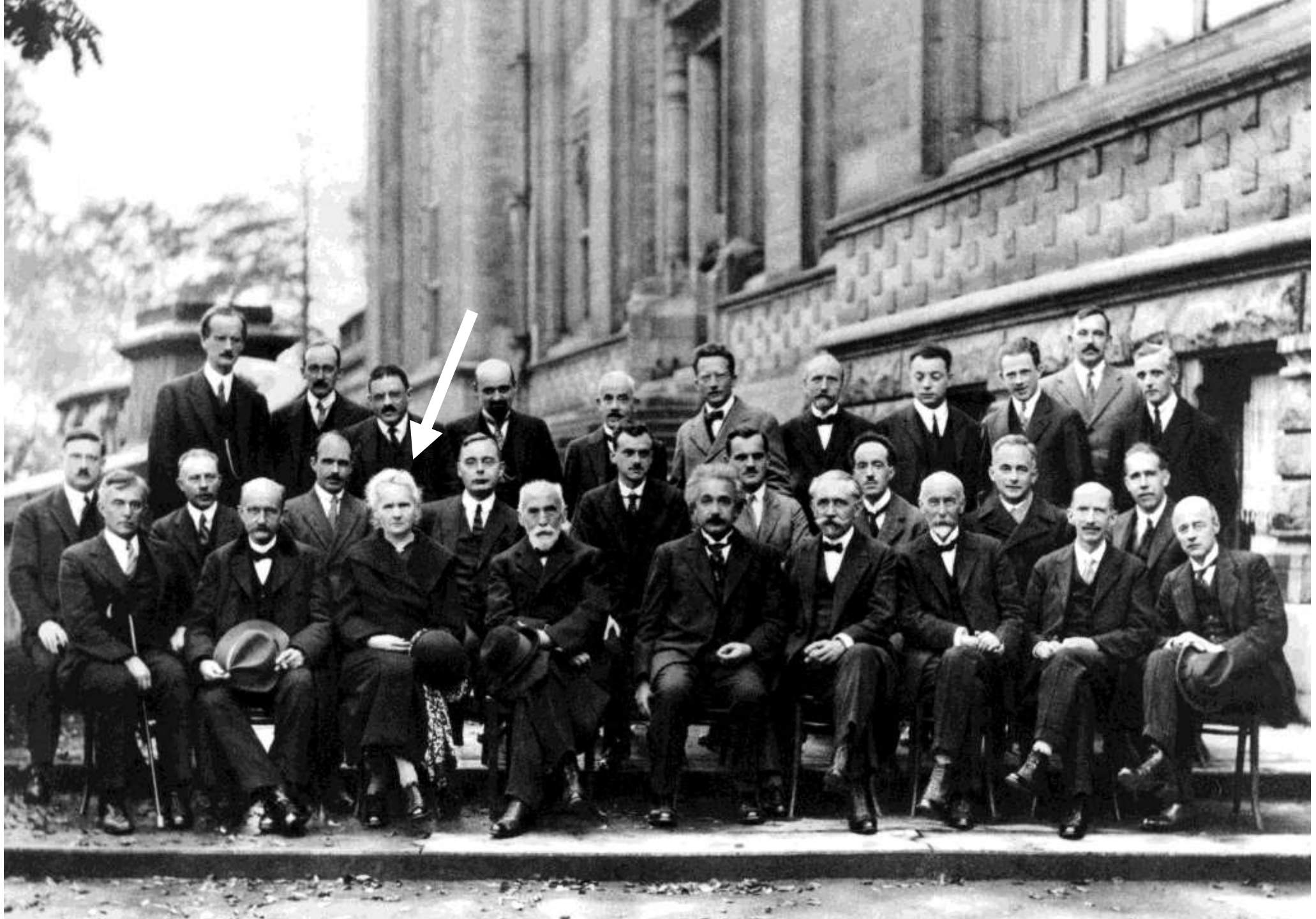


How about women?

1911



1927



Lise Meitner

The first person to understand nuclear fission;

She did not win the Nobel prize 1944 for chemistry which went to her colleague Otto Hahn

Lise Meitner
1878- 1968

Rosalind Elsie Franklin

Her X-ray images led to the discovery of the DNA double helix structure;

Nobel in Medicine 1962 to J. Watson, F. Crick and M. Wilkins;

Franklin should have ideally been awarded a Nobel Prize in Chemistry (according to J. Watson)

Rosalind Elsie Franklin
1920-1958

Eunice Foot (1819–1888)

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CLIMATE HOME NEWS

Meet the woman who first identified the greenhouse effect

Published on 02/09/2016, 5:58pm

Eunice Foote demonstrated the heat-trapping properties of carbon dioxide at a scientific conference in 1856, newly digitised records show

By Megan Darby

Irish physicist John Tyndall is commonly credited with discovering the greenhouse effect, which underpins the science of climate change.

ART. XXXI.—*Circumstances affecting the Heat of the*
by EUNICE FOOTE.

(Read before the American Association, August 23d, 1

MY investigations have had for their object to
different circumstances that affect the thermal actio
of light that proceed from the sun.

Several results have been obtained.

First. The action increases with the density o
is diminished as it becomes more rarified.

The experiments were made with an air-pump a
drical receivers of the same size, about four inc
ter and thirty in length. In each were placed two t
and the air was exhausted from one and condensed
After both had acquired the same temperature they
in the sun, side by side, and while the action of t
rose to 110° in the condensed tube, it attained on
other. I had no means at hand of measuring the d
densation or rarefaction.

The observations taken once in two or three min
follows:

Exhausted Tube		Condensed Tu	
In shade.	In sun.	In shade.	
75	80	75	
76	82	78	
80	82	80	
83	86	82	
84	88	85	

This circumstance must affect the power of the
different places, and contribute to produce their fo
the summits of lofty mountains.

Secondly. The action of the sun's rays was found
in moist than in dry air.

In one of the receivers the air was saturated wit
in the other it was dried by the use of chlorid of ca

Both were placed in the sun as before and the
follows:

Dry Air.		Damp Air.	
In shade.	In sun.	In shade.	
75	75	75	
78	88	78	
82	102	82	
82	104	82	
82	105	82	
83	103	92	

CIRCUMSTANCES

Affecting the Heat of the Sun's Rays.

BY MRS. EUNICE FOOTE.

Frames

“There is only a perspective seeing, only a perspective “knowing”; and the more affects we allow to speak about one thing, the more eyes, different eyes, we can use to observe one thing, the more complete will our “concept” of this thing, our “objectivity”, be.”

Friedrich Nietzsche, Genealogy of Morals, Third Essay.

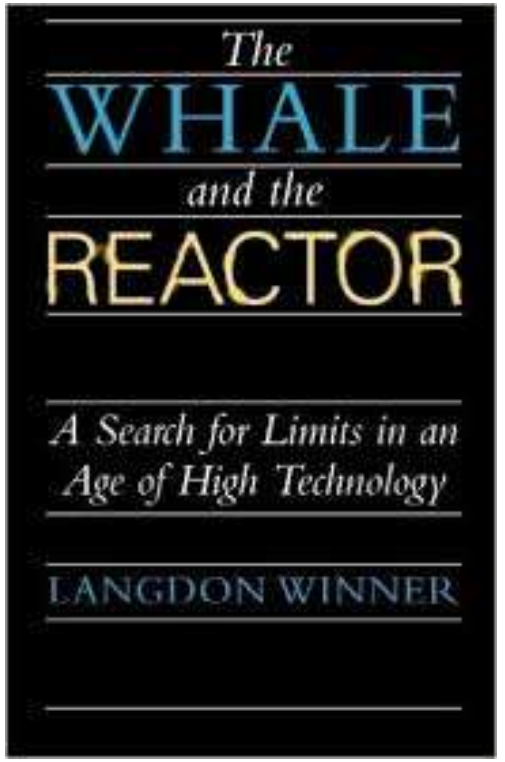
Frames

Most analyses offered as input to policy are framed as cost benefit analysis or risk analyses.

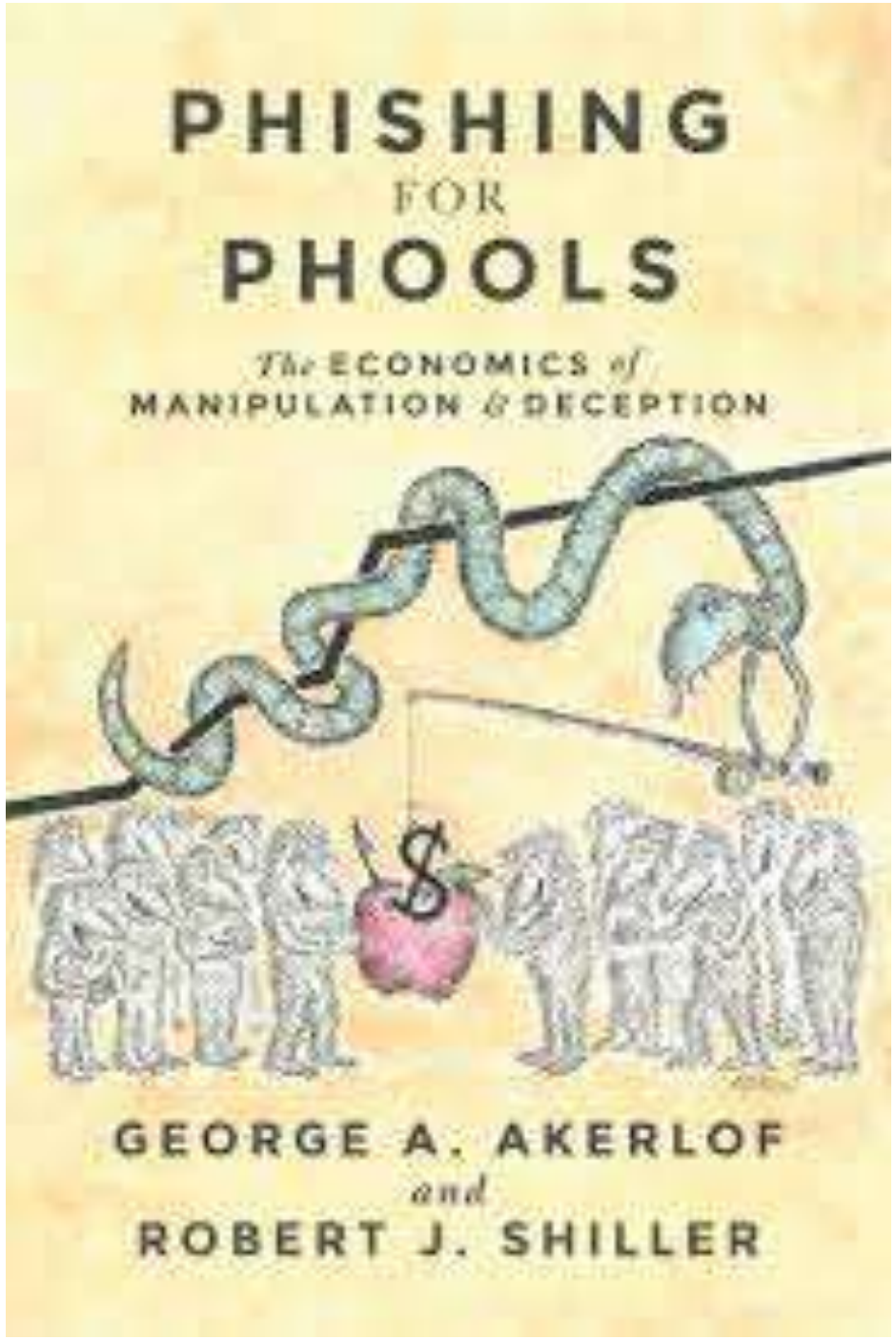
Langdon Winner

8

ON NOT HITTING
THE TAR-BABY

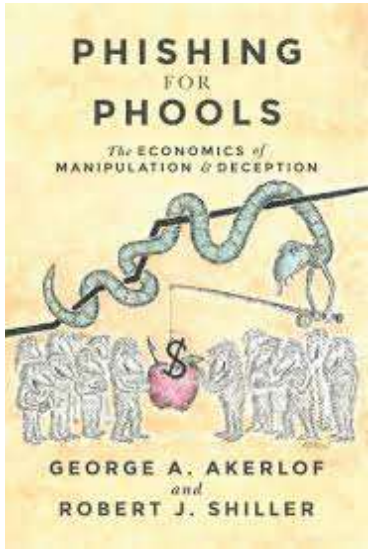


Winner, L., 1986. The Whale and the Reactor: a Search for Limits in an Age of High Technology. The University of Chicago Press, 1989 edition.


PHISHING
FOR
PHOOLS
The ECONOMICS of
MANIPULATION & DECEPTION
$
GEORGE A. AKERLOF
and
ROBERT J. SHILLER

2016

For Akerlof and Shiller – against what the ‘invisible hand’ would contend – economic actors have no choice but to exploit frames to ‘phish’ people into practices which benefit the actors not the subject phished.

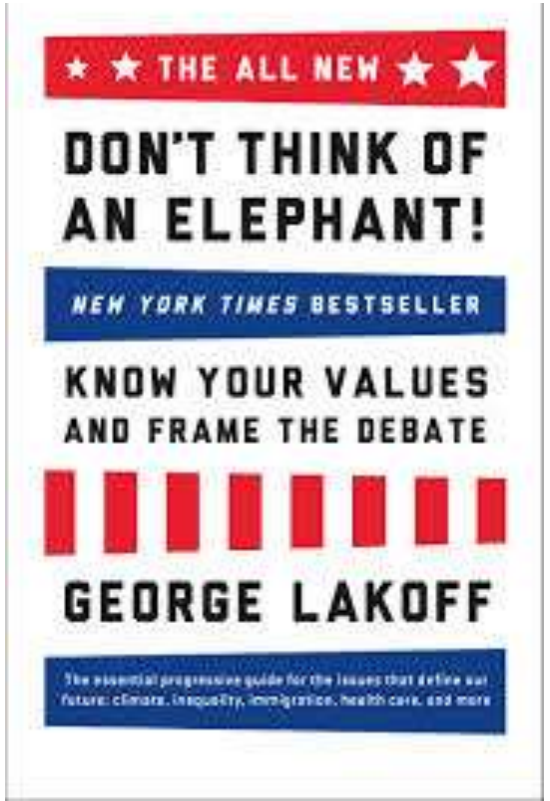


George Akerlof

Robert R. Shiller

Frames: The expression ‘tax relief’ is apparently innocuous but it suggests that tax is a burden, as opposed to what pays for road, hospitals, education and other infrastructures of modern life (Lakoff, 2004)

George Lakoff



Lakoff, G., 2010, Why it Matters How We Frame the Environment, Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture, 4:1, 70-81.

Lakoff, G., 2004-2014, Don’t think of an elephant: know your values and frame the debate, Chelsea Green Publishing.

Frames as hypocognition & Socially constructed ignorance

For Rayner (2012) “Sense-making is possible only through processes of exclusion. Storytelling is possible only because of the mass of detail that we leave out. Knowledge is possible only through the systematic ‘social construction of ignorance’ (Ravetz, 1986)”

Steve Rayner

Jerry Ravetz

Ravetz, J., R., 1987, Usable Knowledge, Usable Ignorance, Incomplete Science with Policy Implications, Knowledge: Creation, Diffusion, Utilization, 9(1), 87-116. **Rayner, S., 2012**, Uncomfortable knowledge: the social construction of ignorance in science and environmental policy discourses, Economy and Society, 41:1, 107-125.

Rayner's (2012) strategies to deal with "uncomfortable knowledge".

1. Denial: "There isn't a problem"

2. Dismissal: "It's a minor problem"

Rayner, S., 2012, Uncomfortable knowledge: the social construction of ignorance in science and environmental policy discourses, Economy and Society, 41:1, 107-125.

Rayner's (2012) strategies to deal with "uncomfortable knowledge".

3. Diversion: "Yes I am working on it" (In fact I am working on something that is only apparently related to the problem)

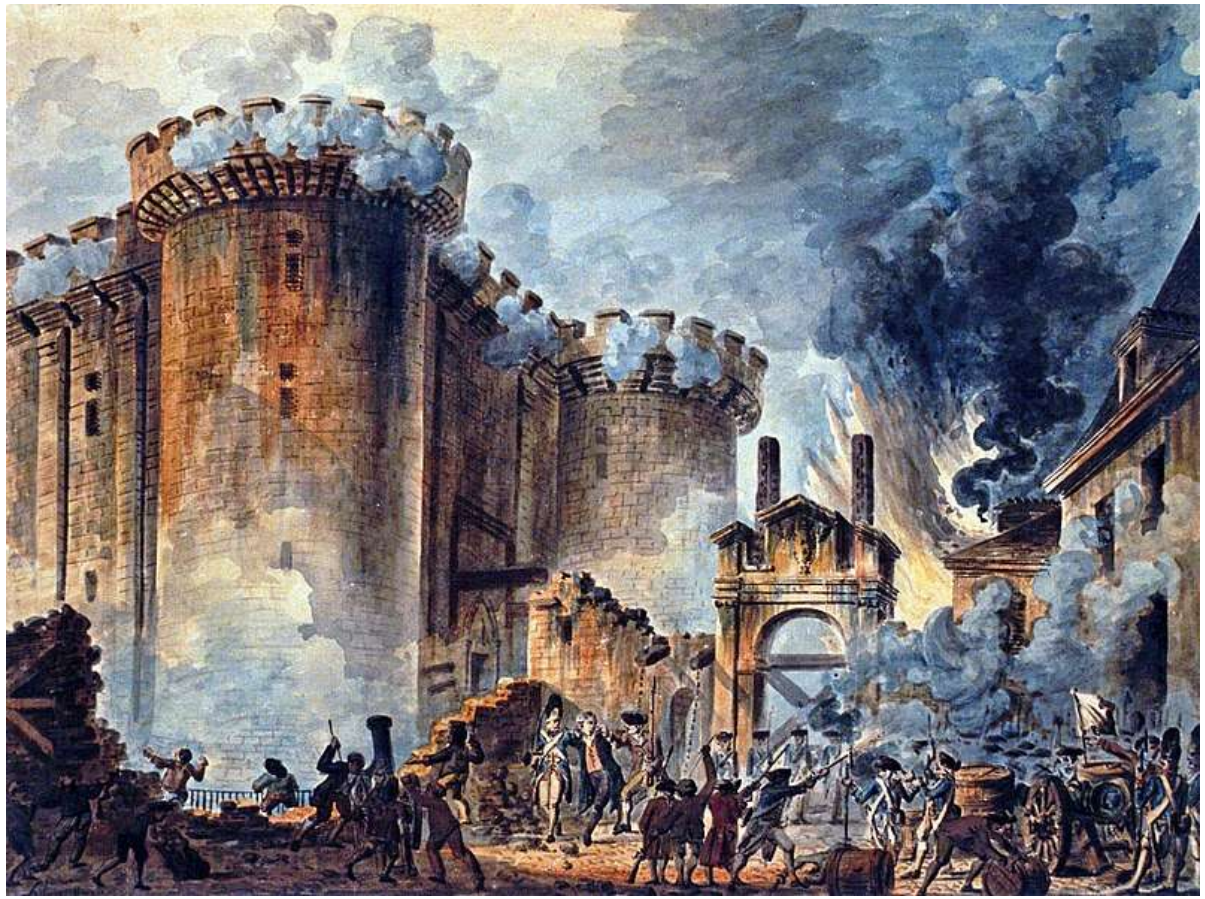
Rayner, S., 2012, Uncomfortable knowledge: the social construction of ignorance in science and environmental policy discourses, Economy and Society, 41:1, 107-125.

Rayner's (2012) strategies to deal with "uncomfortable knowledge".

4. Displacement: "Yes and the model we have developed tells us that real progress is being achieved" (The focus in now the model, not the problem).

Rayner, S., 2012, Uncomfortable knowledge: the social construction of ignorance in science and environmental policy discourses, Economy and Society, 41:1, 107-125.

“Uncomfortable knowledge” can be used as a gauge of an institution’s health. The larger the “uncomfortable knowledge” an institution needs to keep mum about, the closer it is to its ancient régime stage



Use of frames in the social disputes about technology: the case of genetically modified organisms

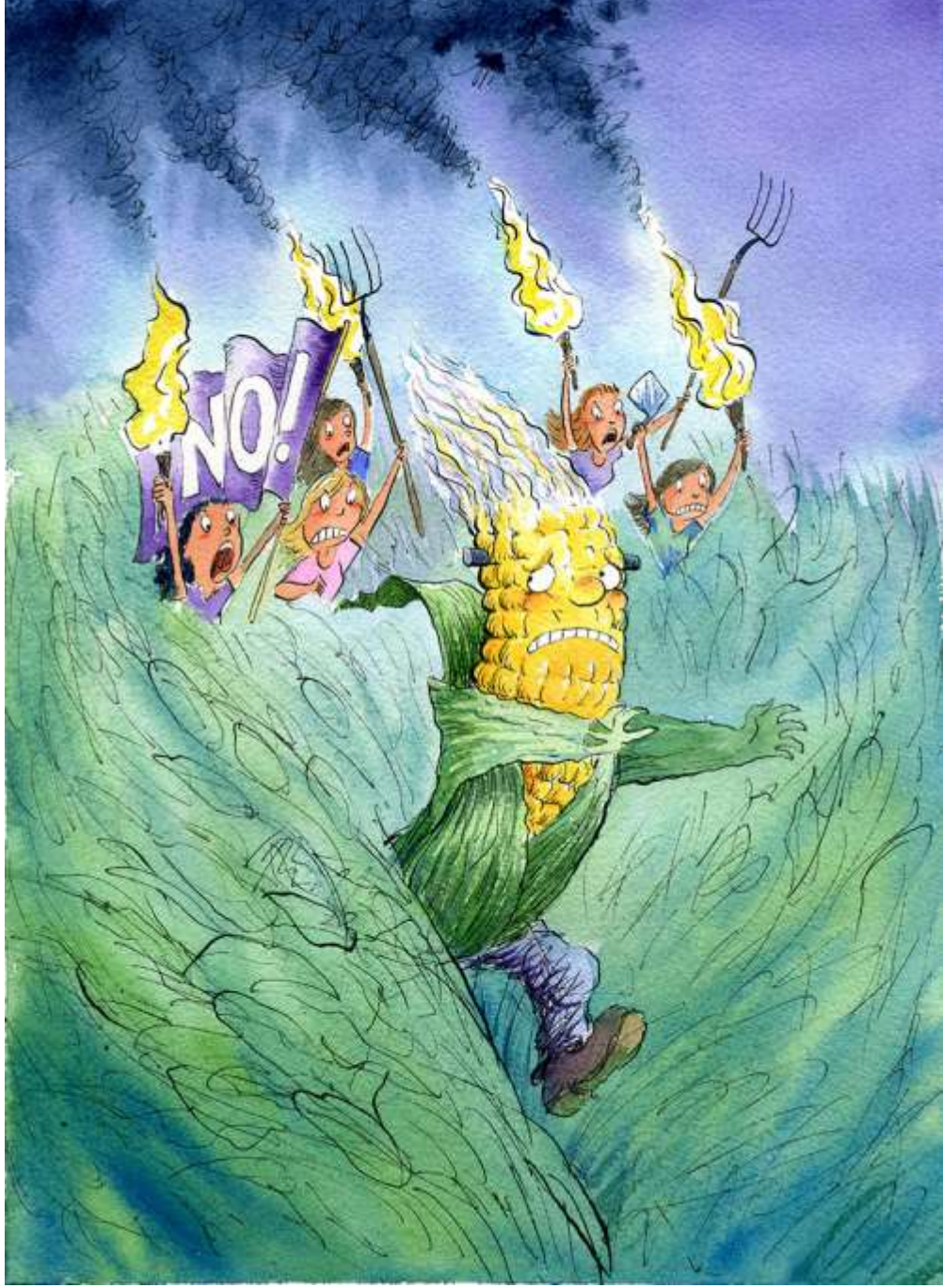
Frame: Resistance to GMO is irrational because GMO are safe for consumption

GMO opponents as ‘New Age’ weirdos

The Economist, Vermont v science, The little state that could kneecap the biotech industry, May 10th 2014

Why are people (and some EU countries) so much against 'Frankenfood': the PABE study

Marris, C., Wynne, B., Simmons P., and Weldon, S. 2001. Final Report of the **PABE** research project funded by the Commission of European Communities, Contract number: FAIR CT98-3844 (DG12 - SSMI), December **2001**.



Source: https://www.milkenreview.org/articles/in-defense-of-franken-foods

Myth I: The primordial cause of the problem is that lay people are ignorant about scientific facts

Myth 2: People are either 'for' or 'against' GMOs

Myth 3: Consumers accept medical GMOs but refuse GMOs used in food and agriculture

Myth 4: European consumers are behaving selfishly towards the poor in the Third World

Myth 5: Consumers want labelling in order to exercise their freedom of choice

PABE

Myth 6: The public thinks – wrongly – that GMOs are unnatural

Myth 7: It's the fault of the BSE crisis: since then, citizens no longer trust regulatory institutions

Myth 8: The public demands 'zero risk'– and this is not reasonable

Myth 9: Public opposition to GMOs is due to "other – ethical or political– factors“

Myth 10: The public is a malleable victim of distorting sensationalist media

PABE

What were instead the citizens' concerns?

PABE

Why do we need GMOs? What are the benefits?

Who will benefit from their use?

Who decided that they should be developed and how?

PABE

Why were we not better informed about their use in our food, before their arrival on the market?

Why are we not given an effective choice about whether or not to buy and consume these products?

Do regulatory authorities have sufficient powers and resources to effectively counter-balance large companies who wish to develop these products?

PABE

Can controls imposed by regulatory authorities be applied effectively?

Have the risks been seriously assessed? By whom? How?

Have potential long-term consequences been assessed? How?

PABE

How have irreducible uncertainties and unavoidable domains of ignorance been taken into account in decision-making?

What plans exist for remedial action if and when unforeseen harmful impacts occur?

Who will be responsible in case of unforeseen harm? How will they be held to account?

The National Academies of SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

A SCIENCE-BASED LOOK AT GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS

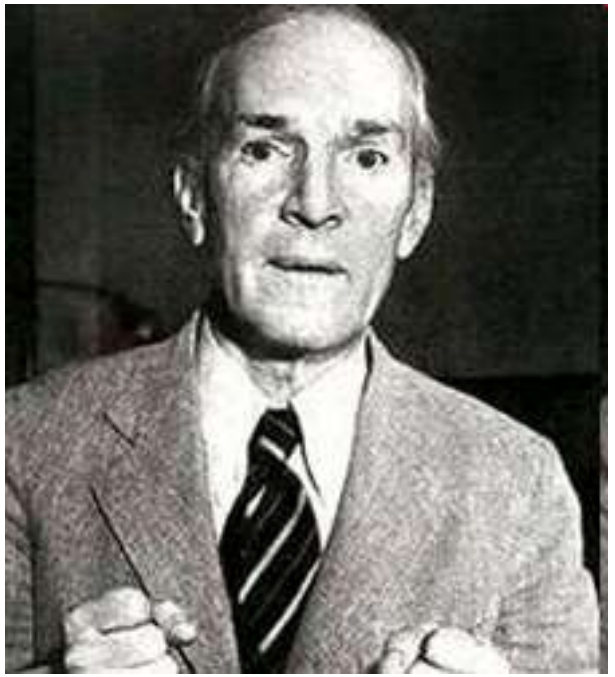
US National Academy of Sciences report on genetically engineered crops:

"Products of new technologies should be regulated not only on the basis of their benefit-risk profiles, but also on their societal context and need"

Hunter, J., Duff, G., GM crops—lessons from medicine, Science, 353, 1187 (2016)

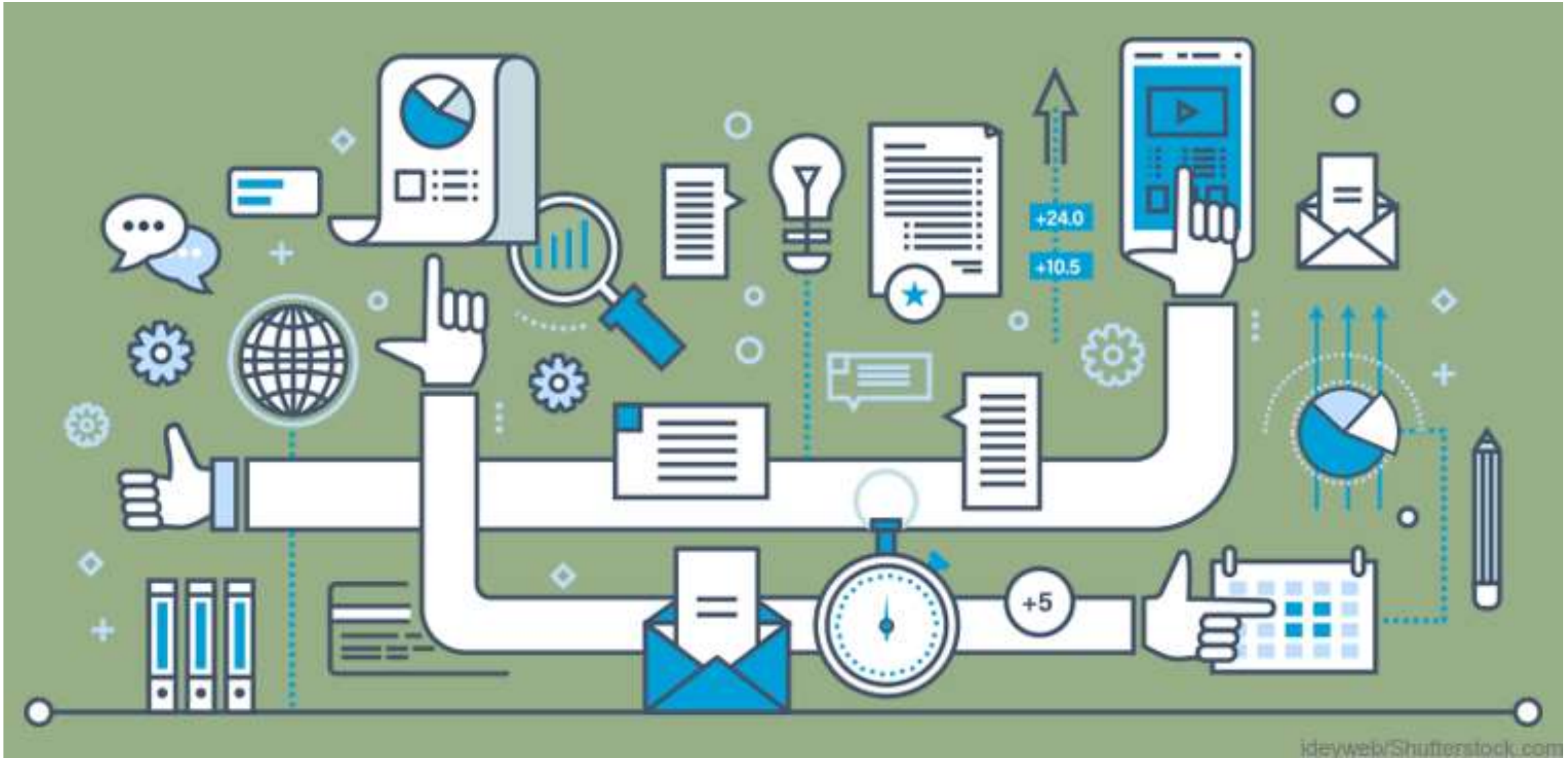
Why frames ‘stick’

“If is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding it.”



Upton Sinclair

Evidence based policy



Source: https://fcw.com/articles/2018/10/18/evidence-based-omb-gunter.aspx

From evidence based medicine to evidence based policy; the Cochrane collaboration (1993)

For a systematic reviews of all relevant randomised controlled trials in the field of healthcare

➔ health economics

Evidence-based policy: often cost benefit analysis

Cass Sunstein,
winner of the 2018
Holberg Prize

"In a series of books (The Cost Benefit State, 2002, Risk and Reason, 2002, and The Laws of Fear, 2004), Sunstein shows the ways in which cost benefit analysis can discipline regulatory agencies"

https://www.holbergprisen.no/en/holberg-prize/prize-winners/cass-r-sunstein

Can technocracy be saved? An interview with Cass Sunstein.

Obama's regulation czar makes the case that "the issues that most divide us are fundamentally about facts rather than values."

By Dylan Matthews | @dylanmatt | dylan@vox.com | Oct 22, 2018, 9:00am EDT

https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/2018/10/22/18001014/cass-sunstein-cost-benefit-analysis-technocracy-liberalism

“Often, immersion in the facts makes value isagreements feel much less relevant”
(C. Sunstein)

https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/2018/10/22/18001014/cass-sunstein-cost-benefit-analysis-technocracy-liberalism

The Sameness of Cass Sunstein

His books keep pushing the same technocratic fixes. But today's most pressing questions cannot be depoliticized.

By **AARON TIMMS** | June 20, 2019

A critique of Sunstein's faith in 'nudge' and cost benefit analysis

https://newrepublic.com/article/154236/sameness-cass-sunstein

Prospect

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The price of everything: what people get wrong about cost-benefit analysis

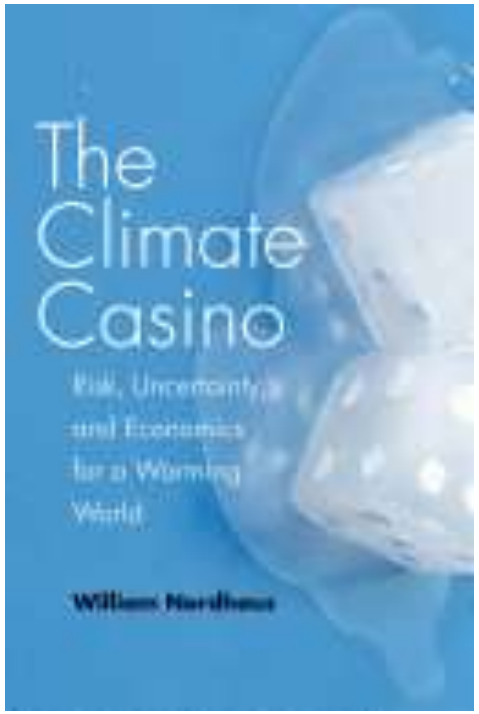
Far from leading to better results, cost-benefit analysis too often provides a bogus rationale for bad decisions

by John Kay / March 8, 2019 / Leave a comment

John Kay

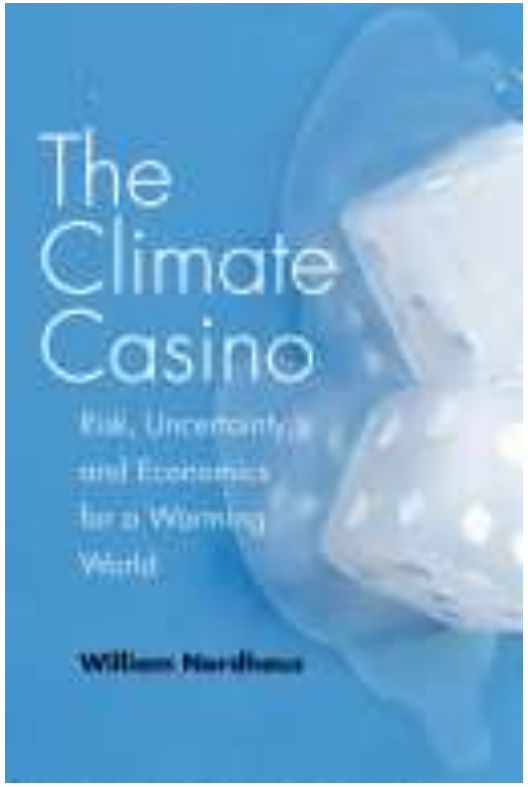
https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/magazine/the-price-of-everything-what-people-get-wrong-about-cost-benefit-analysis

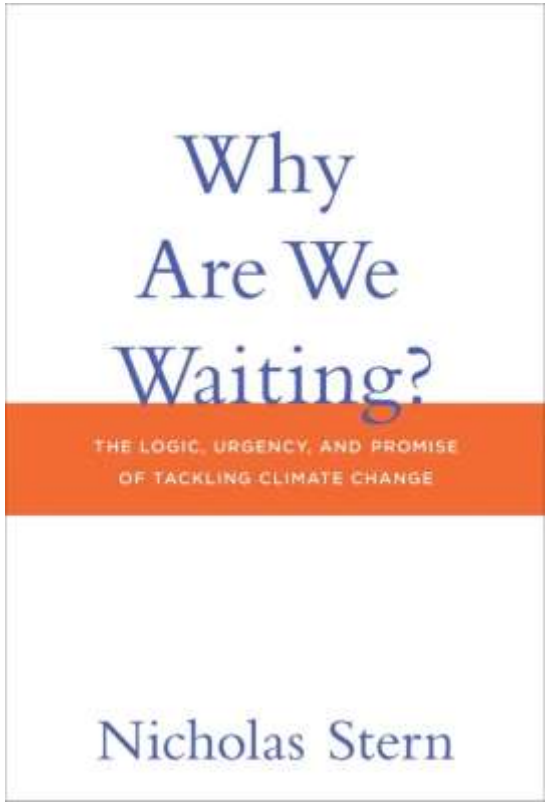
One of the winner of Nobel prize for economics 2018 is **Willem Nordhaus**, for his work on the economics of climate change.

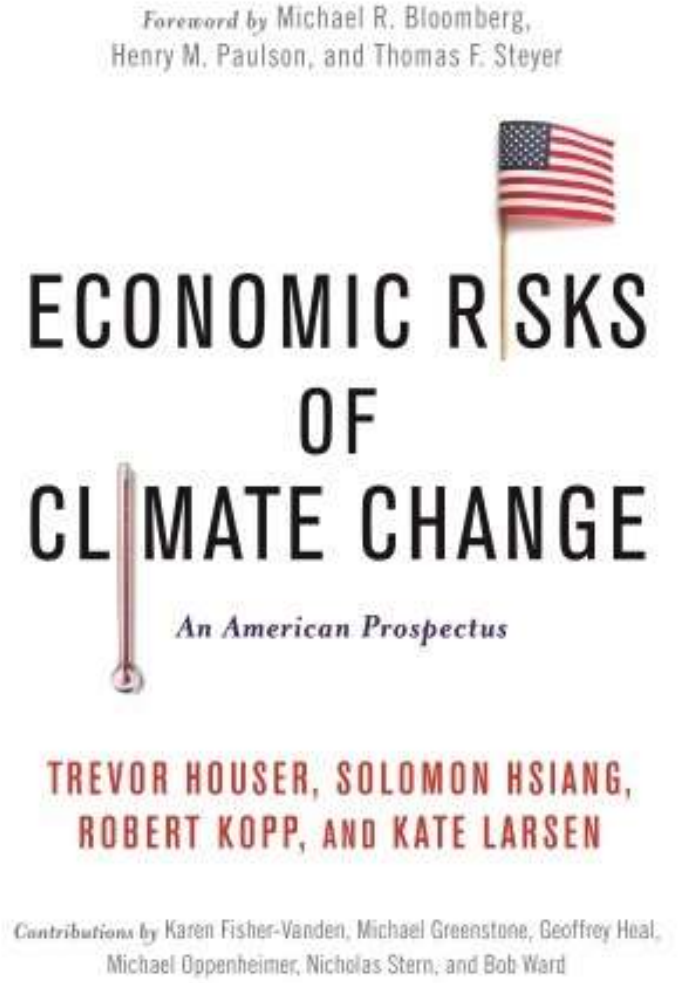


Cost benefit analysis to the year 2100?

Are these licit quantifications?







Saltelli, A., Stark, P.B., Becker, W., and Stano, P. , 2015, Climate Models as Economic Guides. Scientific Challenge or Quixotic Quest? Issues in Science and Technology (IST), Volume XXXI Issue 3, Spring 2015, https://issues.org/climate-models-as-economic-guides-scientific-challenge-or-quixotic-quest/

How do we appraise the work of experts when this feeds into policy? A complex matter for Clark and Majone

W. C. Clark and G. Majone, "The Critical Appraisal of Scientific Inquiries with Policy Implications," Sci. Technol. Hum. Values, vol. 10, no. 3, pp. 6–19, Jul. 1985.

Clark and Majone ➔ The appraisals of quality in evidence based policy is a complex affair:

- Different parties have a legitimate say;
- There are multiple criteria of value, quality, effectiveness and legitimacy

The Critical Appraisal of Scientific Inquiries with Policy Implications

p. [6]

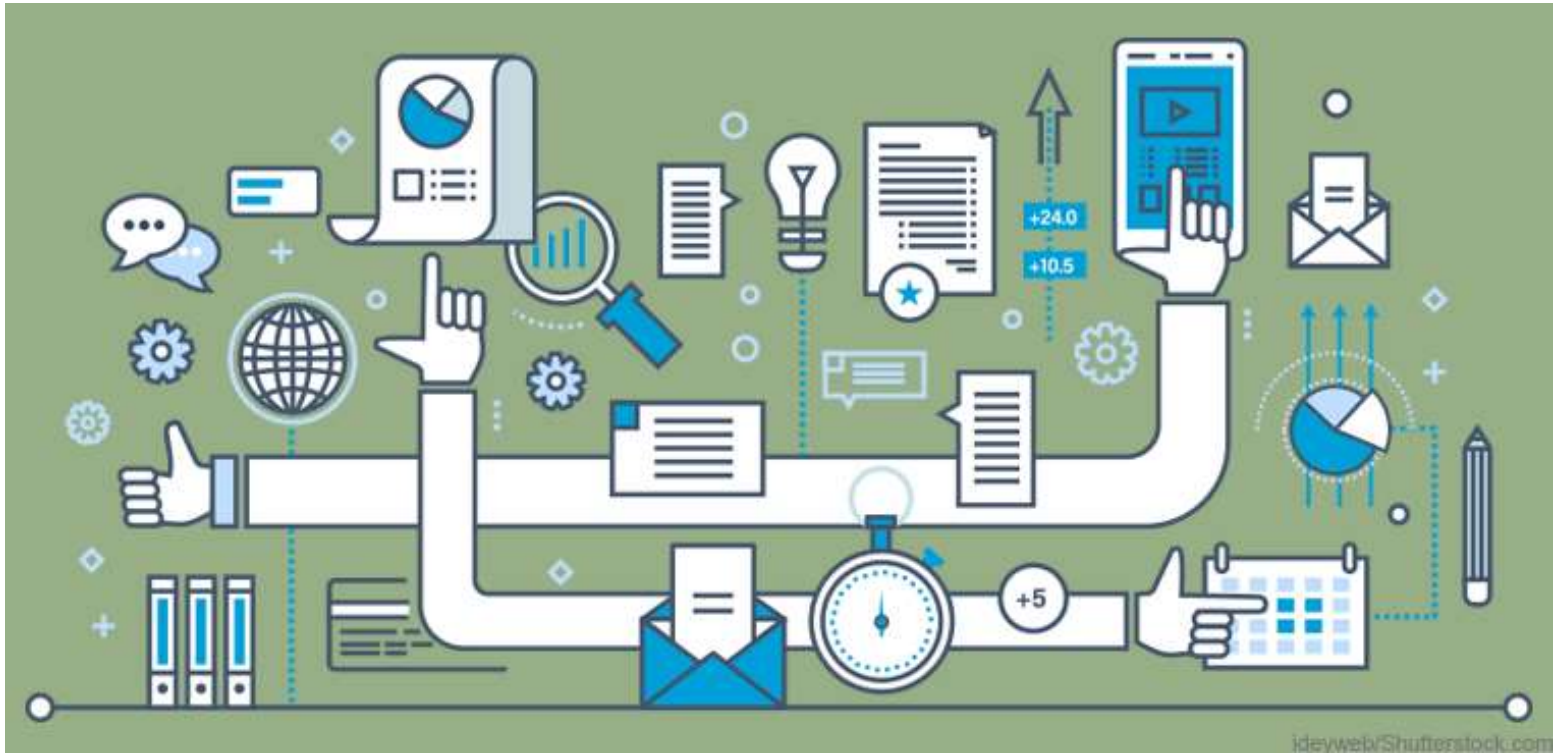
William C. Clark and Giandomenico Majone

The Critical Appraisal of Scientific Inquiries with Policy Implications

p. [6]

William C. Clark and Giandomenico Majone

➔ Abandon hopes of simplicity, of “speaking truth to power”



Evidence based policy versus policy based evidence

PETRUCHIO: I say it is the moon.

KATHERINE: I know it is the moon.

PETRUCHIO: Nay, then you lie. It is the blessèd sun.

KATHERINE: Then God be blessed, it is the blessèd sun.

But sun it is not, when you say it is not,

And the moon changes even as your mind

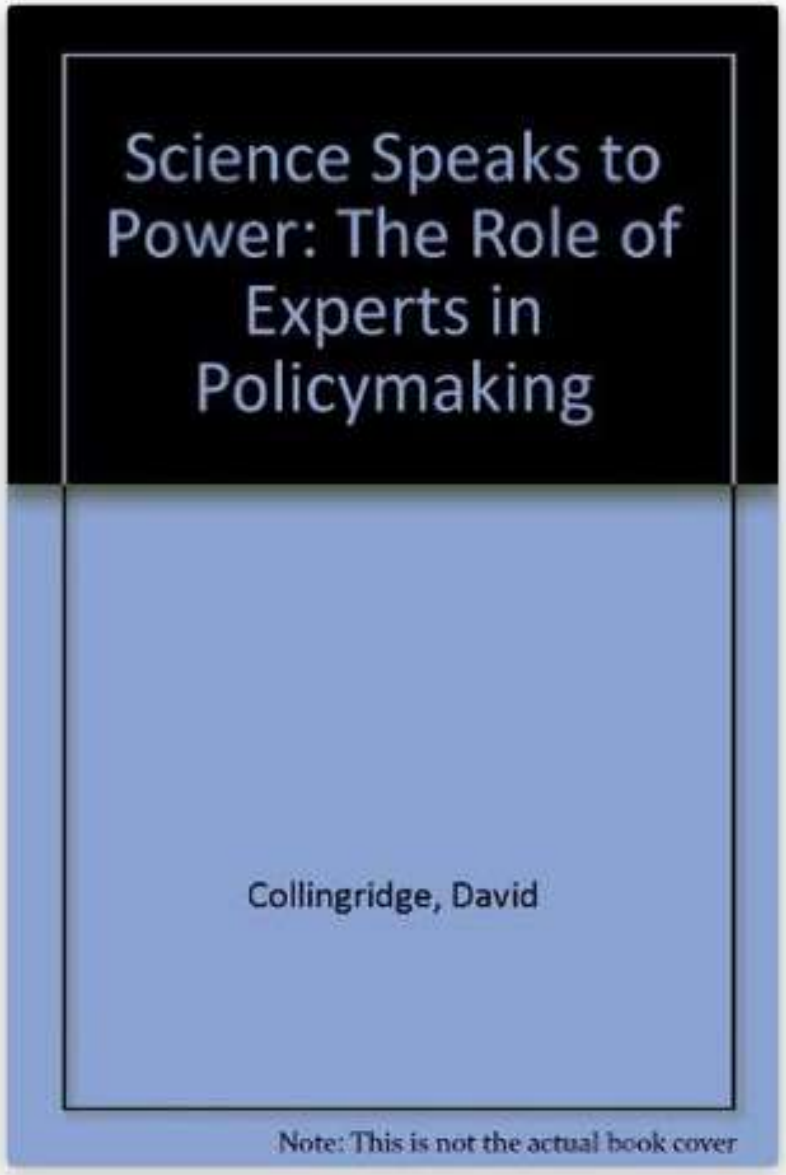
W. Shakespeare, the Taming of the Shrew, Act IV

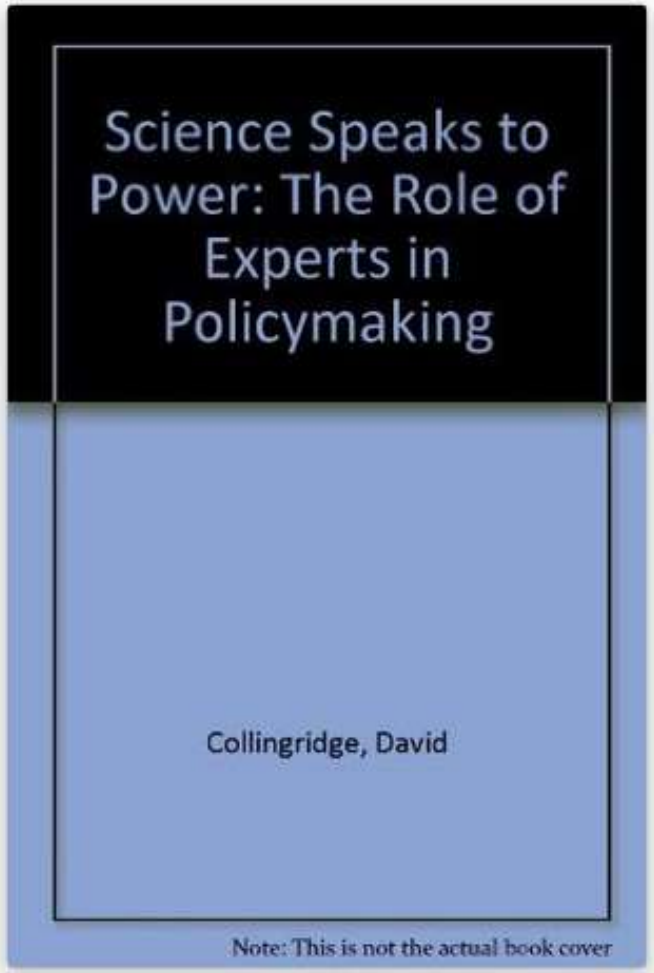
‘Policy based evidence’ has entered the public discourse, and warring parties accuse one another of the sin. Example:

“[…] what Greenpeace wants is policy-based evidence making not evidence-based policy making” (Sanderson, 2015) …

Wilkes, G., 2015, Free Lunch: Policy-based evidence-making, Financial Times, July 3.
Sanderson, A.B., 3 Feb 2015, **Breitbart**, see http://www.breitbart.com/london/2015/02/03/academic-attacks-greenpeace-for-ignoring-the-evidence-on-gm-crops/; the politician is UKIP Energy Spokesman Roger Helmer MEP.

Collingridge and Reeve (1986)





Science Speaks to Power: The Role of Experts in Policymaking Hardcover – 31 Dec 1986

by David Collingridge (Author), Colin Reeve (Author)

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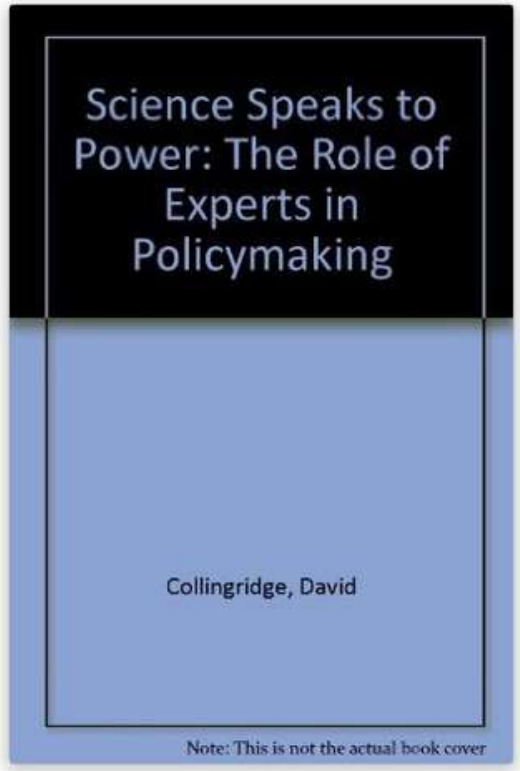
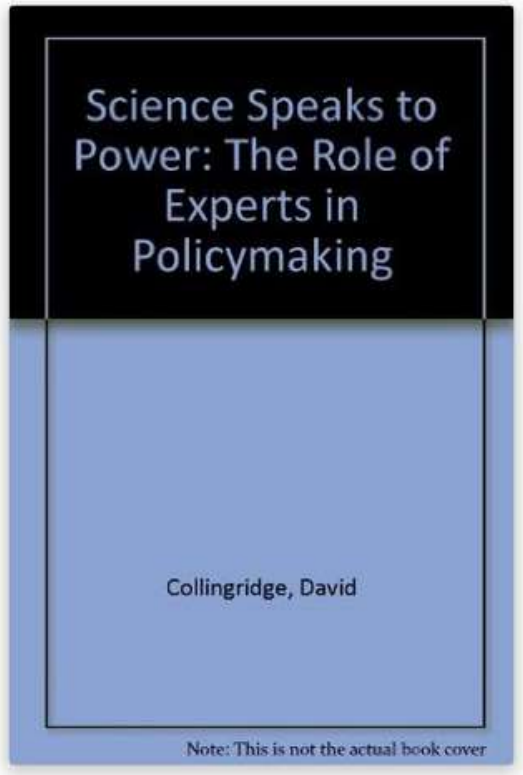
Collingridge and Reeve advocate as model for policy decision one of least dependence on science; why?



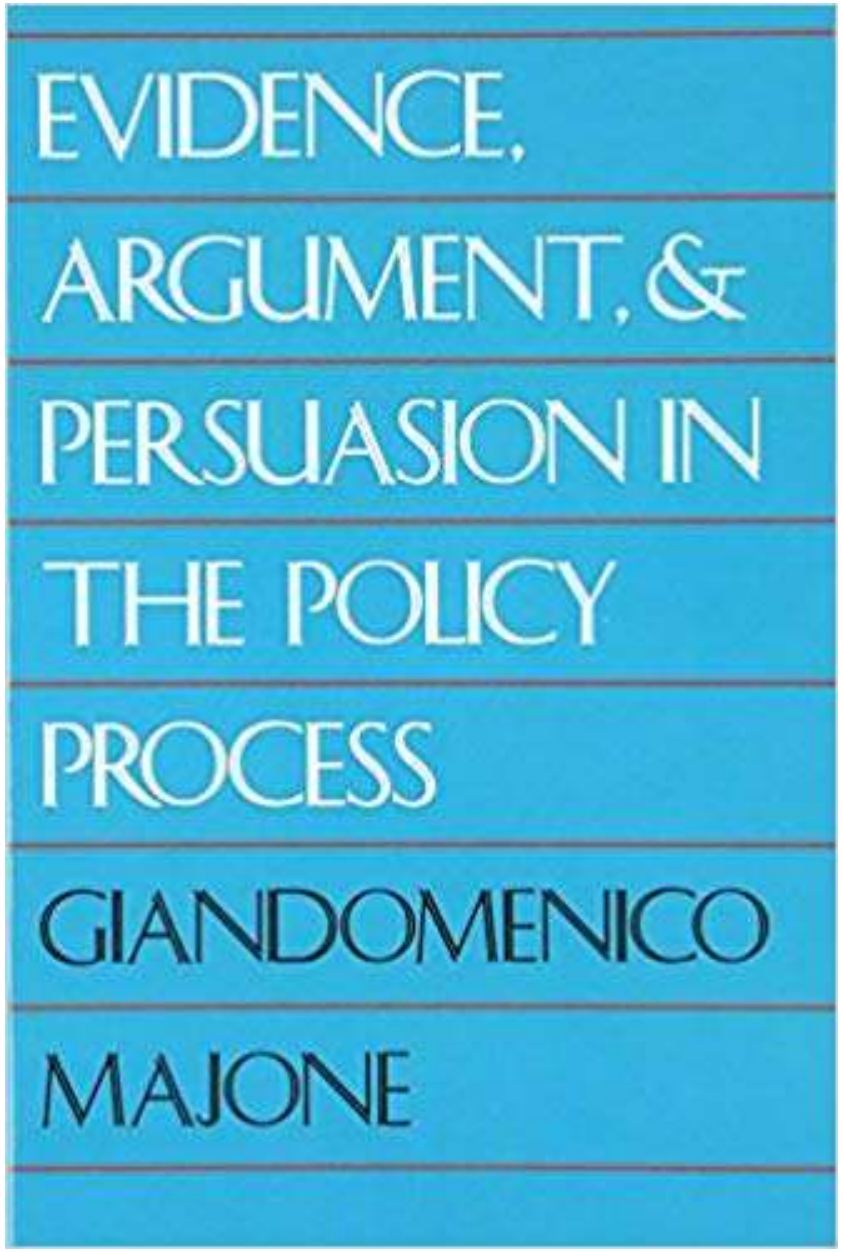
The twin myths of rationality

1. policy action is predicated on the accumulation of facts and the taming of uncertainty and

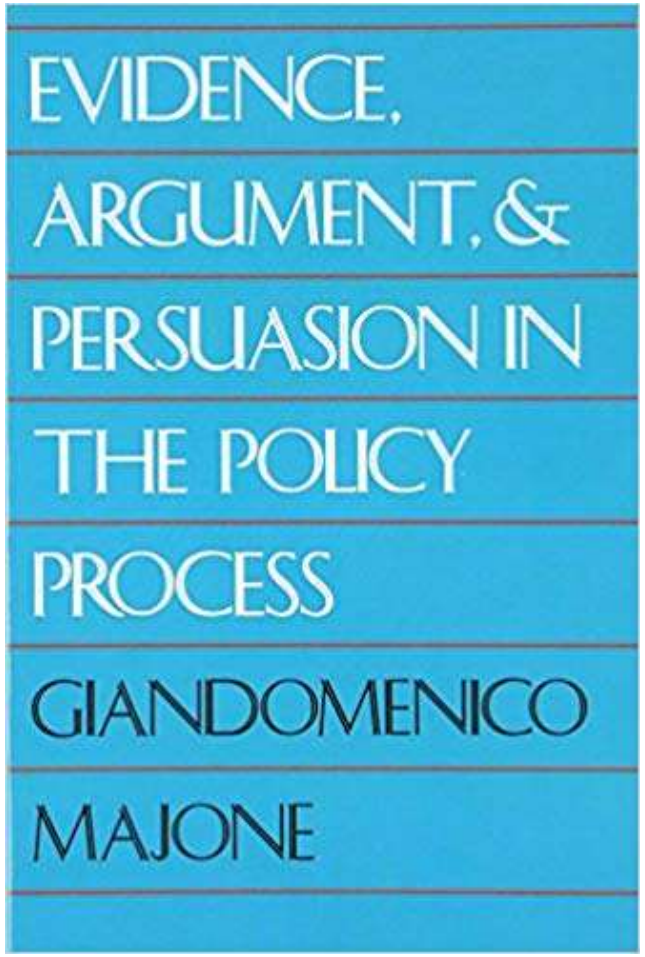
2. the power of science (whereby science is there to provide dispassionate facts to adjudicate controversies)



Giandomenico Majone

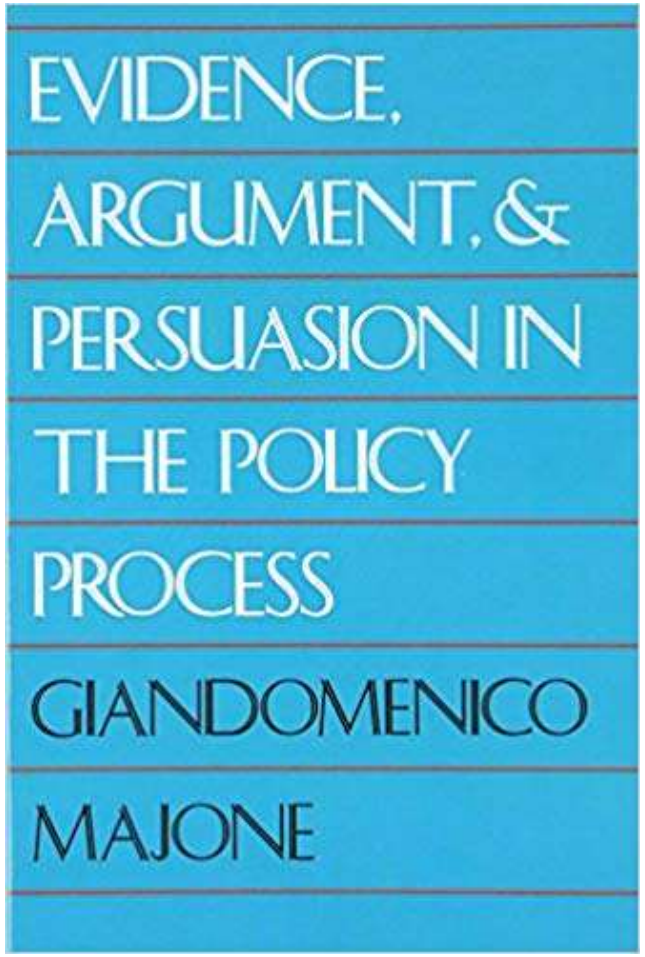


(1992)

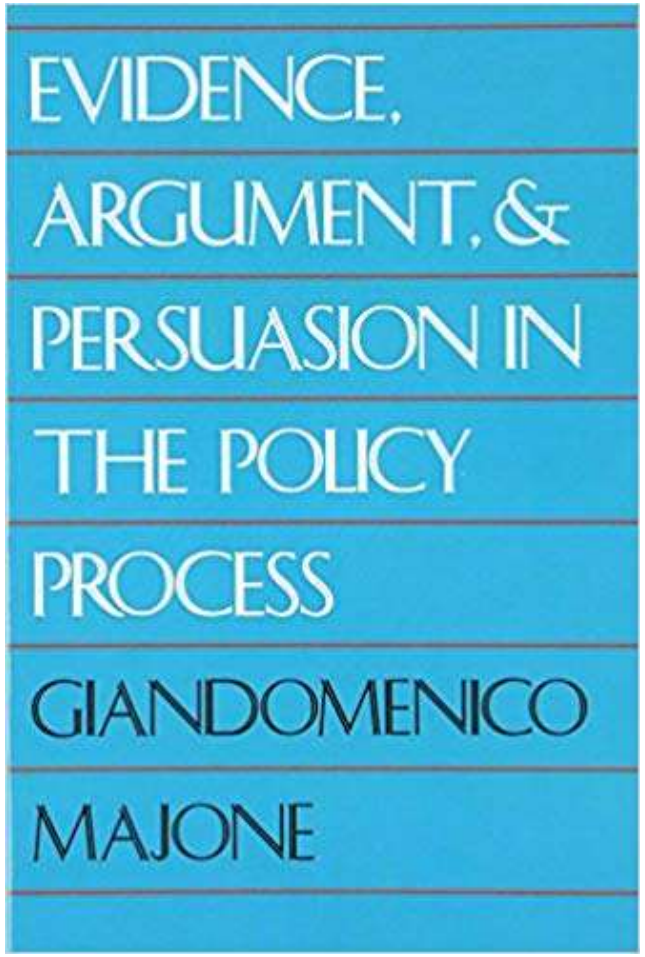


The pretended distinction between facts and value is used instrumentally

In the policy process often facts and values cannot be separated in the making of an argument

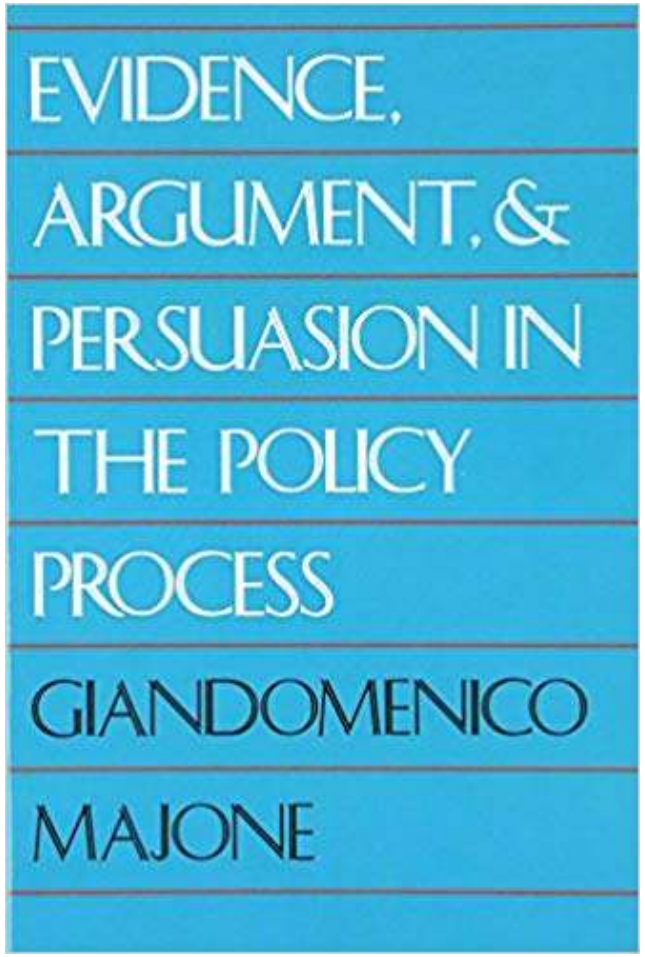


"When science, technology, and public policy intersect, different attitudes, perspectives, and rules of argument come into sharp conflict. Scientific criteria of truth clash with legal standards of evidence and with political notions of what constitutes sufficient ground for action"



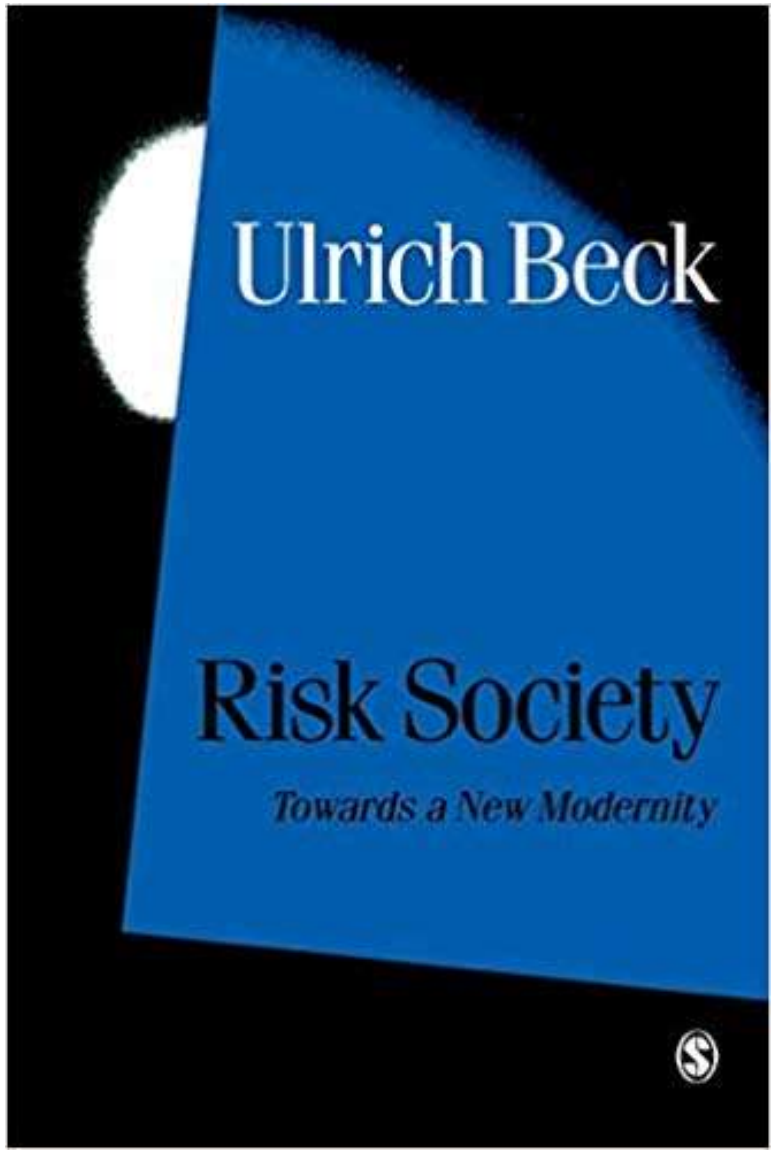
"the technique is never neutral"
https://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/1712/1712.06457.pdf

Majone: "In any area of public policy the choice of instruments, far from being a technical exercise that can be safely delegated to the experts, reflects as in a microcosm all the political, moral, and cultural dimensions of policy-making"



"[my suggestion is to view a] policy analyst as a producer of arguments, capable of distinguishing between good and bad rhetoric, rather than as a "number cruncher" …

Ulrich Beck
(1944 –2015)

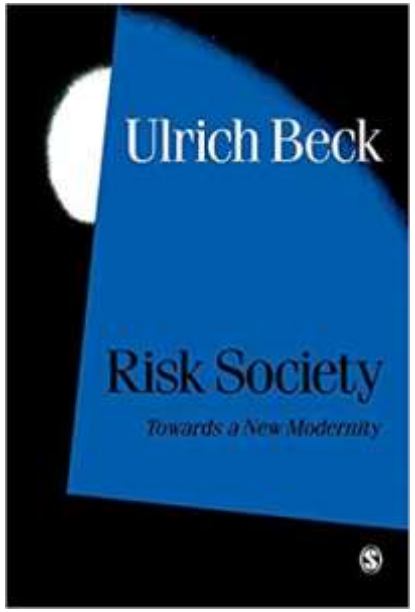


1992 (1986)

Chapter 7 Science beyond truth and enlightenment

1. Feudalization of cognitive practices

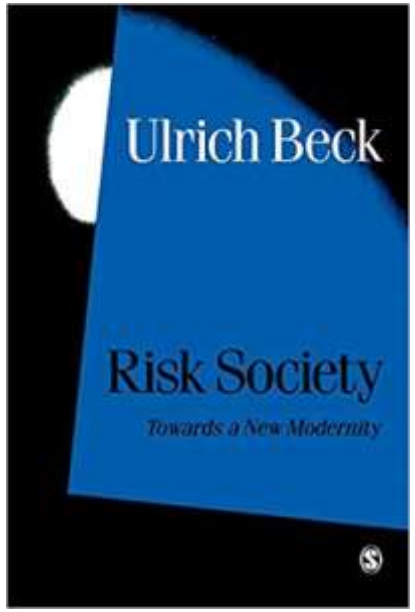
"In developed civilizations, scientific cognitive practice becomes an *implicit, objectivized manipulation of latently political variables, hidden behind the pretence of elective decision not subject to justification.*" ➔ On transforming a political problem into a technical one



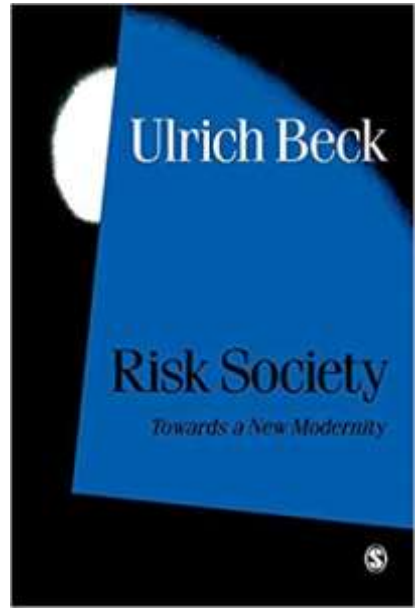
Chapter 7 Science beyond truth and enlightenment

Feudalization of cognitive practices

2. “The target groups of science in administration, politics, business and the public sphere become *coproducers* of socially valid knowledge – in conflictual and collaboration and opposition.”



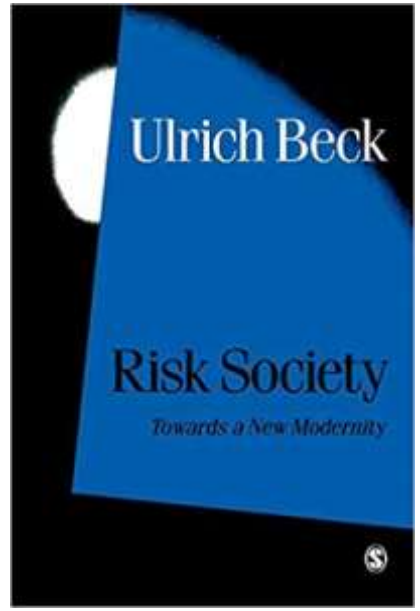
Chapter 7 Science beyond truth and enlightenment



3. “The differentiation and complexification of the sciences transforms it into a “self service shops for financially well endowed customers in need of arguments.”

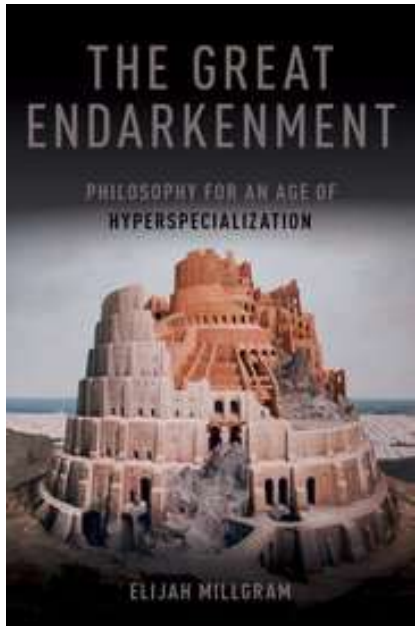
4. “It is not uncommon for political programs to be decided in advance simply by the choice of what expert representatives are included in the circle of advisers.” ➔ The technique is never neutral

Chapter 8 Opening up the political

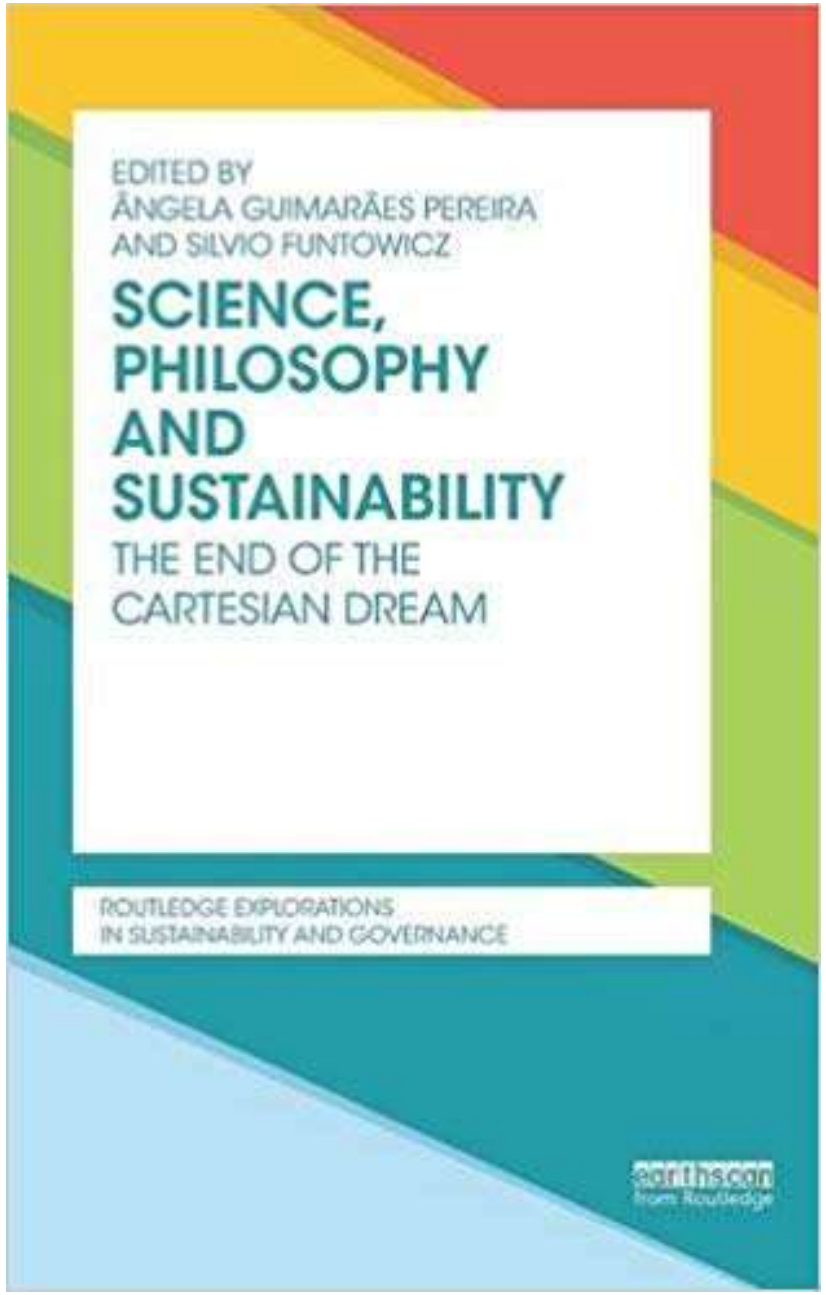


1. “Modernity has even taken up the role of its counterpart the tradition to be overcome, the natural constraint to be mastered. It has become the threat and the promise of emancipation from the threat that it creates itself.”

2. “Progress replaces voting”; The necessity, the non-decidability of technological ‘progress’ becomes the bolt securing the process to its democratic (non)legitimation. ➔ Critique of Cartesian Dream

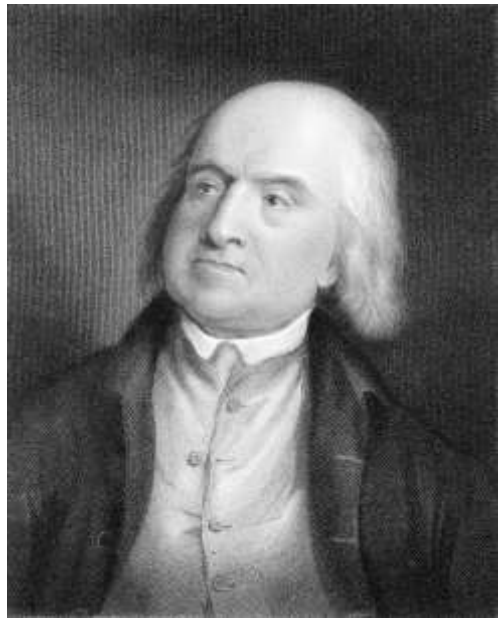


Elijah Millgram: Describes the dream of a “procedural utopia”, a machinery to take the right decision based on a set of logical rules and methods, a Cartesian dream



Cartesian dream?

This dream started with Condorcet's Mathématique sociale; Bentham's utilitarianism;



Jeremy Bentham
1748-832

Nicolas de Caritat,
marquis de Condorcet
1743-1794

Today's 'decisionism' (considered as a fallacy by G. Majone) – the idea that decisions can always systematically arrived at given a modicum of computation

<<‘tools’ like ‘externality assessment’, ‘impact analysis’ or ‘quantitative valuation’ help convince others which energy policy or health and safety standards or conservation strategy might be considered to be objectively ‘safest’, ‘safe enough’, ‘tolerable’ or even ‘best’>>

Andrew Stirling

https://steps-centre.org/blog/how-politics-closes-down-uncertainty/

<<[…] rhetoric clamour [surrounds] ‘expected utility’, ‘decision theory’, ‘life cycle assessment’, ‘ecosystem services’ ‘sound scientific decisions’ and ‘evidence-based policy’

Andrew Stirling

Each technique routinely delivers its answers with formidable levels of precision. Yet the resulting impression of accuracy is deeply misplaced >>

Futures

Volume 91, August 2017, Pages 62-71

Original research article

What is wrong with evidence based policy, and how can it be improved?

Andrea Saltelli [a, b, c], Mario Giampietro [a, c, d]

Highlights

- There is a crisis of science's governance forcing to reconsider evidence based policy as it is being practiced at present.

- The closure of any issue in a pre-established frame used for quantification may correspond to normative and political stances.

- The use of mathematical modelling and indicators conveys a spurious impression of precision, prediction and control.
    - Better styles of evidence based policy should flag the existence of 'uncomfortable knowledge' usually avoided in policy discussions.
        - We suggest a strategy – Quantitative storytelling – to opening the space of possible narratives and control their quality .

Science and lobbying

Futures xxx (xxxx) xxx–xxx

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Futures

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/futures

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

Andrea Saltelli

Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities – University of Bergen, Norway; Open Evidence Research, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), Barcelona, Spain

- Science' reproducibility crisis has become a political and industrial battleground.
    - Conservatives and corporate interests use the crisis to weaken regulations, their opponent deny the existence of even a reproducibility crisis.
        - This right-left divide in the reading of the science's present predicaments is unhelpful and dangerous to the survival of science itself.

- An alternative reading of the crisis would suggest that structural contradictions have emerged in modern science.

- Addressing these contradictions should be the focus of our attention.

Power asymmetries in the framing of issues: those who have the deepest pockets marshal the best evidence ➔ Instrumental use of quantification to obfuscate

ARTICLE IN PRESS

Futures xxx (xxxx) xxx–xxx

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

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September 12, 2016

See also https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/apr/07/the-sugar-conspiracy-robert-lustig-john-yudkin, and the story of US President Dwight Eisenhower heart attack,…

“our findings suggest the industry sponsored a research program in the 1960s and 1970s that successfully cast doubt about the hazards of sucrose while promoting fat as the dietary culprit in CHD [coronary hearth disease]”

http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2548255

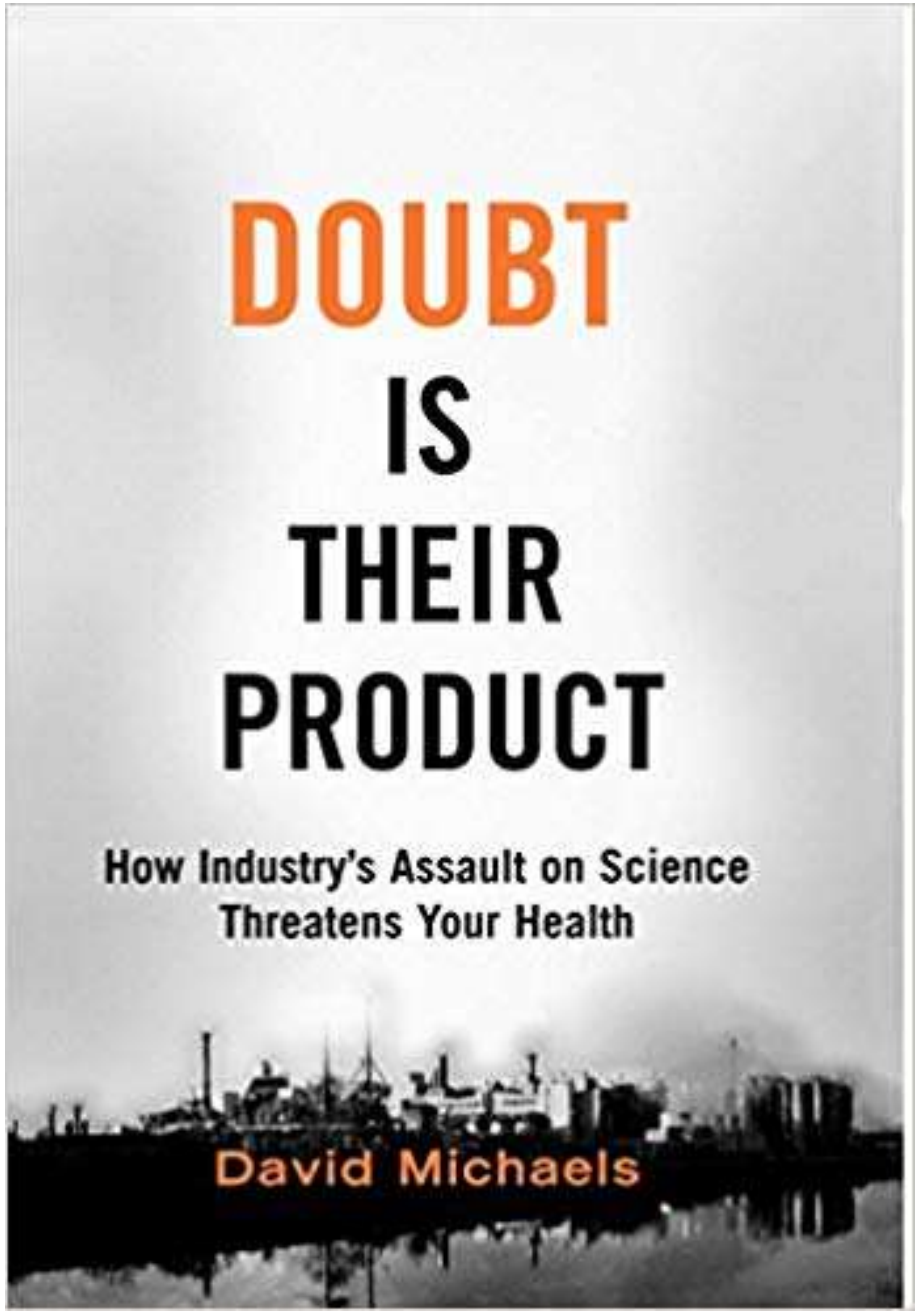
Industry groups are fighting government regulation by fomenting scientific uncertainty

DOUBT Is Their Product

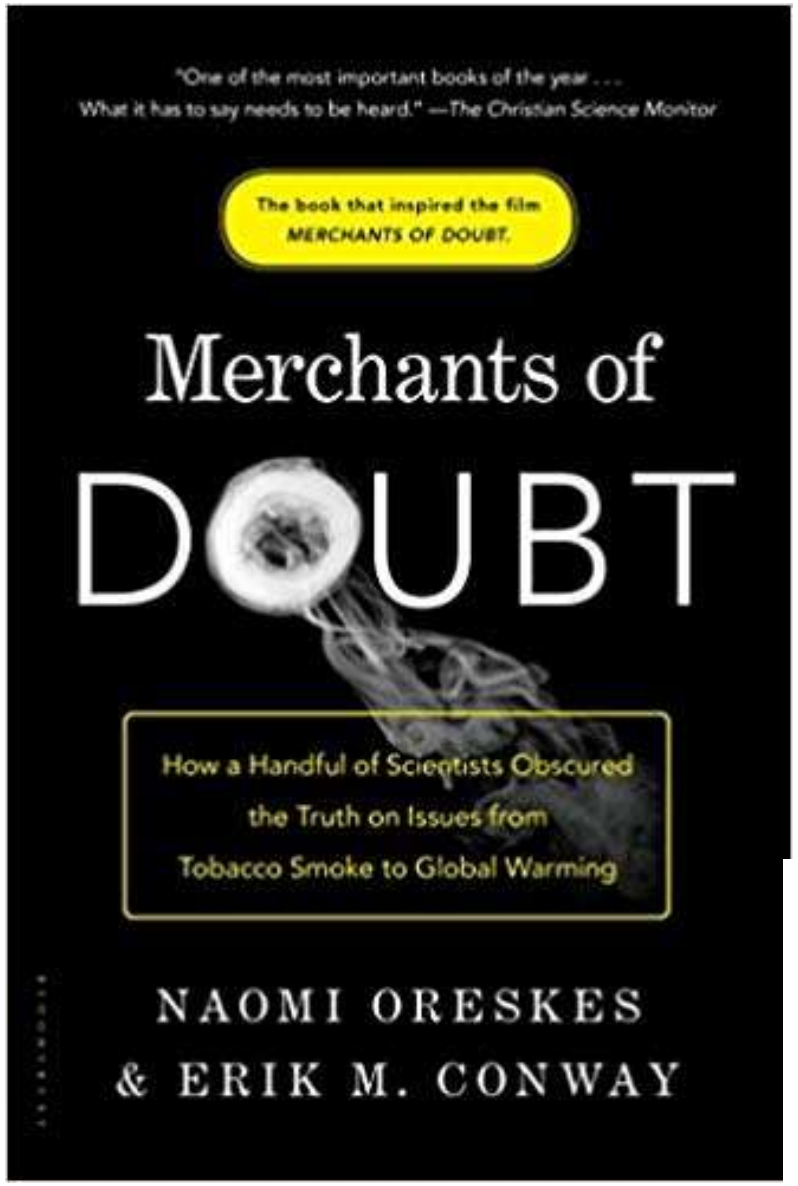
By David Michaels

Photographs by Mindy Jones

Scientific American, June 2005,
https://www.phil.vt.edu/dmayo/personal_website/PhilEvRelReg/Doubt%20is%20their%20Product.pdf


DOUBT
IS
THEIR
PRODUCT
How Industry's Assault on Science
Threatens Your Health
David Michaels

2010



2010

Naomi Oreskes

nature
International journal of science

Beware: transparency rule is a Trojan Horse

Like tobacco lobbyists and climate-change deniers, the US Environmental Protection Agency is co-opting scientific trappings to sow doubt, warns Naomi Oreskes.

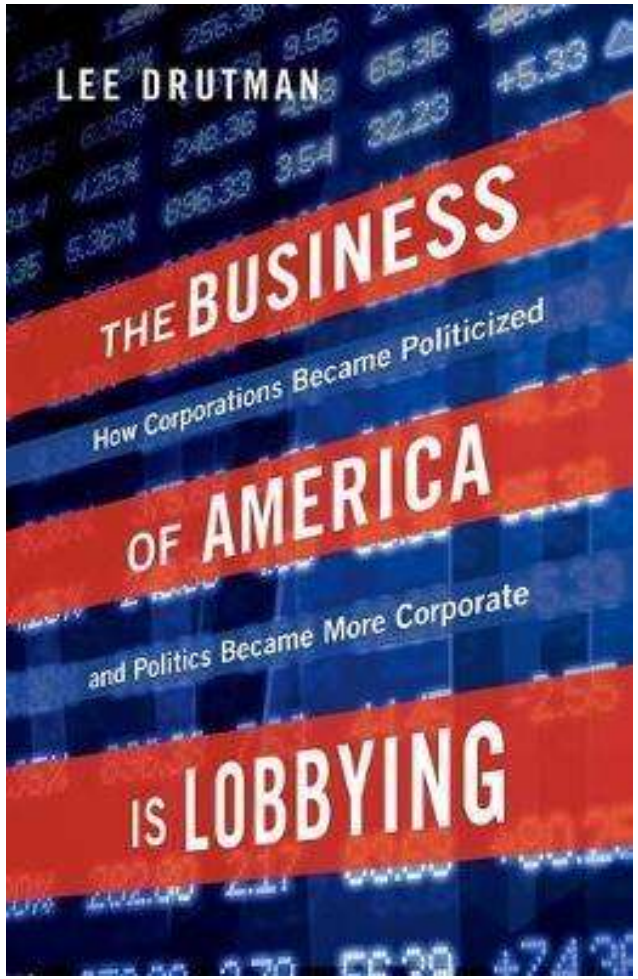
WORLD VIEW · 22 MAY 2018

“Doubt is our product since it is the best means of competing with the ‘body of fact’ that exists in the minds of the general public” (Philip Morris memo, 1969)

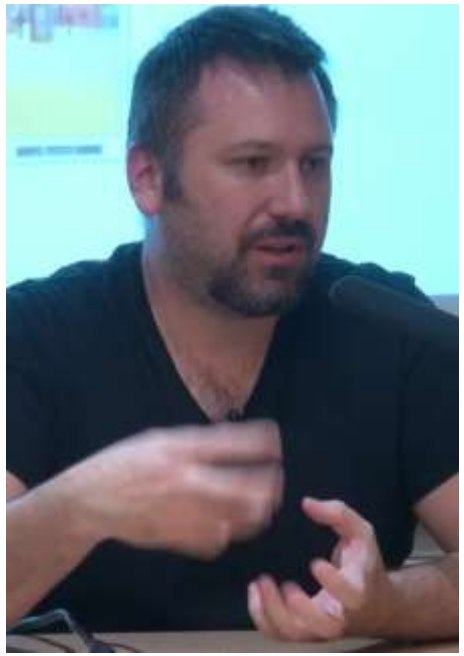
PHILIP MORRIS

(US) corporate interest can spend on lobbying $34 for each dollar spent by diffuse interest and unions combined

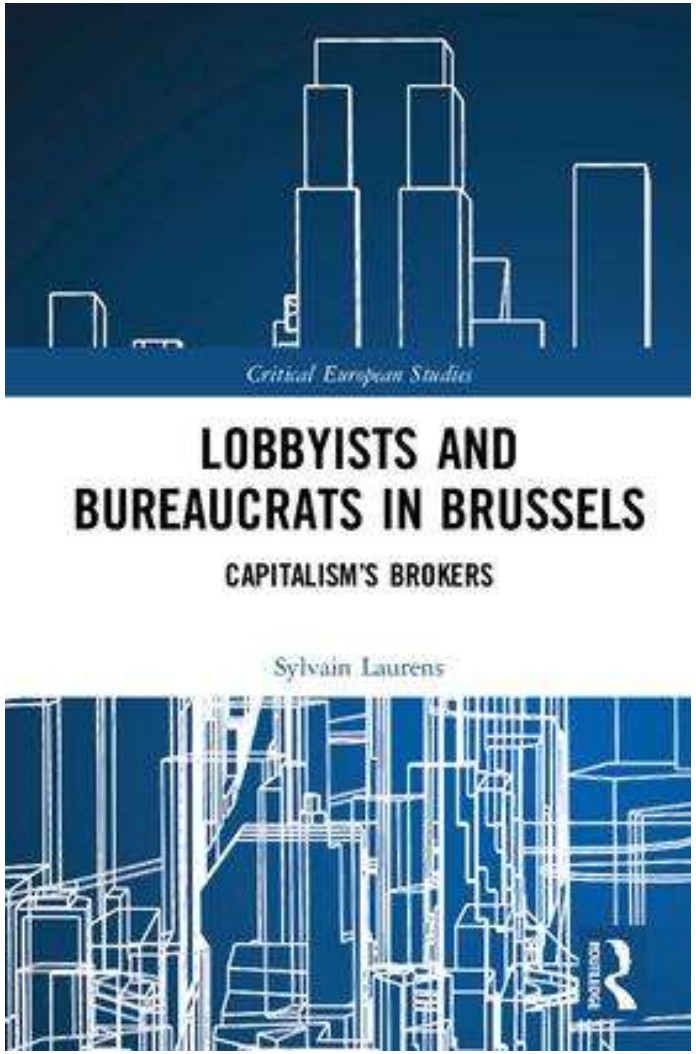
Lee Drutman



(EU) the Brussels concentration effect



Sylvain Laurens



For both scholars a salient aspect of this power is lobbyists' access to more and better disseminated science

➔ Urgent a remedial action to give citizens and political staffers some structured mechanism of access to independent scientific evidence (L. Drutman)

See discussion on OTA in Adam Keiper, 2004, Science and Congress, The New Atlantis, https://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/science-and-congress

Penetration of lobbyists in institutions having to do with scientific advice

OECDpublishing

Please cite this paper as:

OECD (2015), "Scientific Advice for Policy Making: The Role and Responsibility of Expert Bodies and Individual Scientists", *OECD Science, Technology and Industry Policy Papers*, No. 21, OECD Publishing, Paris.
http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/5js33l1jcpwb-en

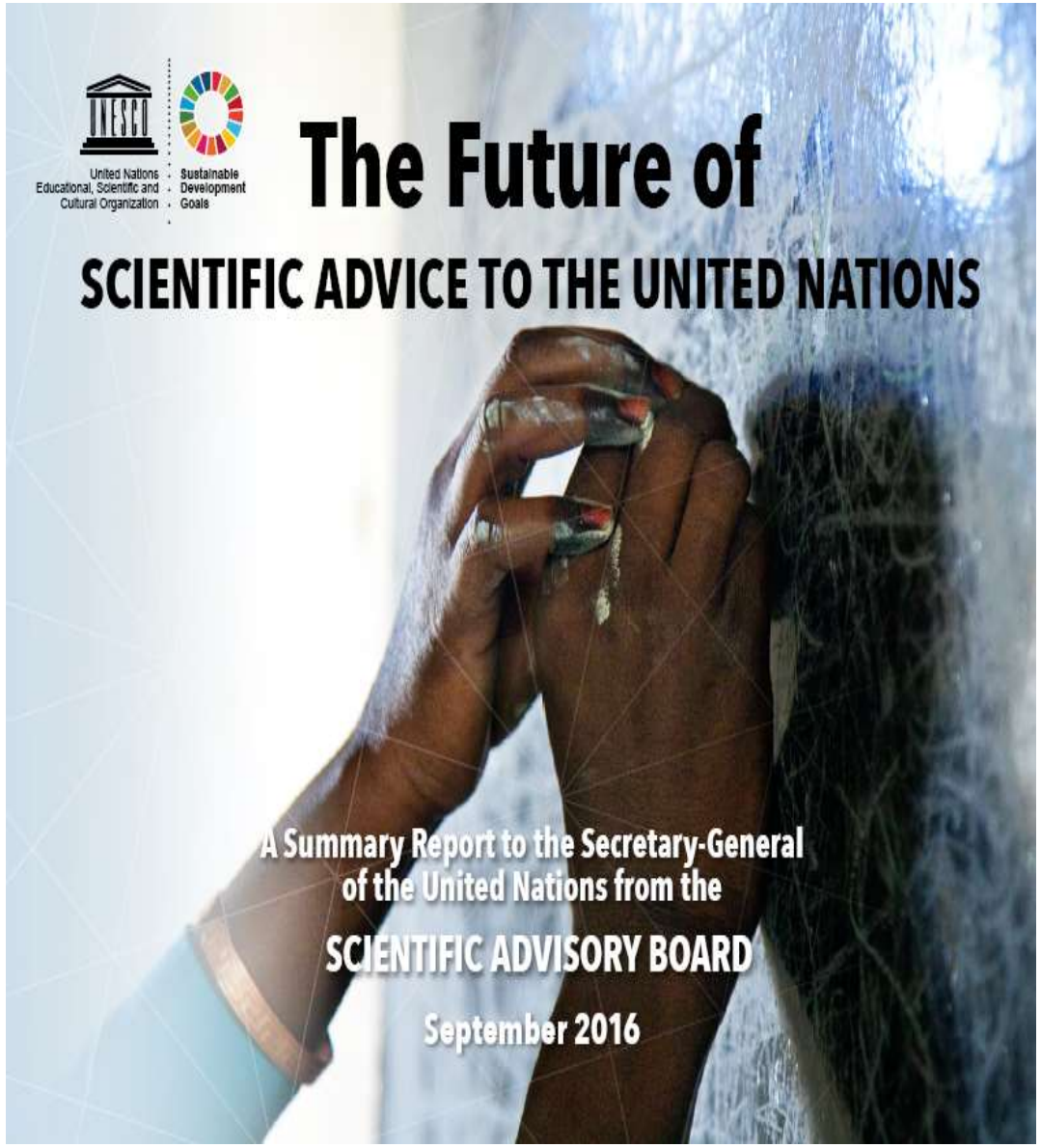
OECD Science, Technology and Industry Policy Papers No. 21

Scientific Advice for Policy Making

THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF EXPERT BODIES AND INDIVIDUAL SCIENTISTS

OECD

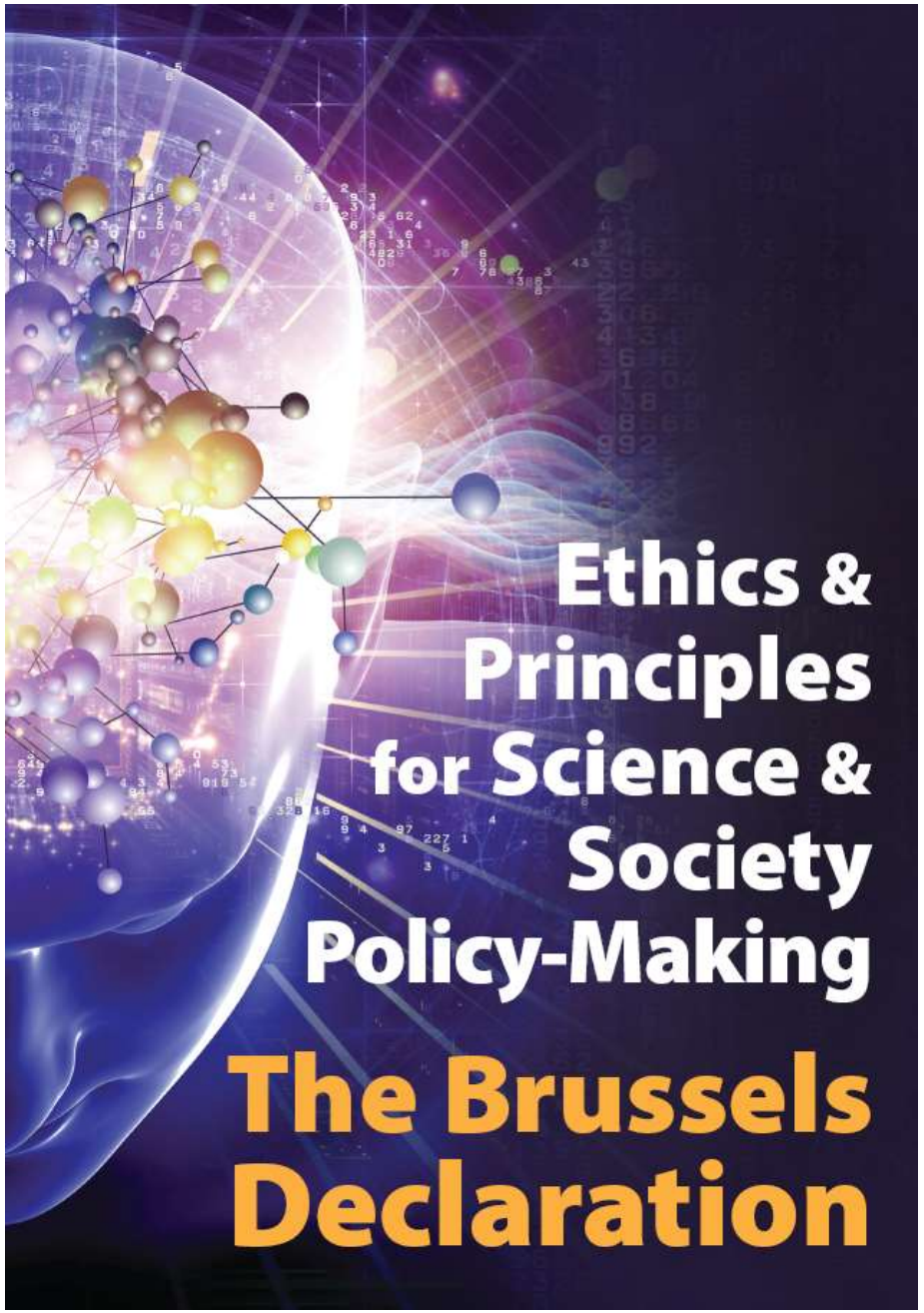
2015



2016

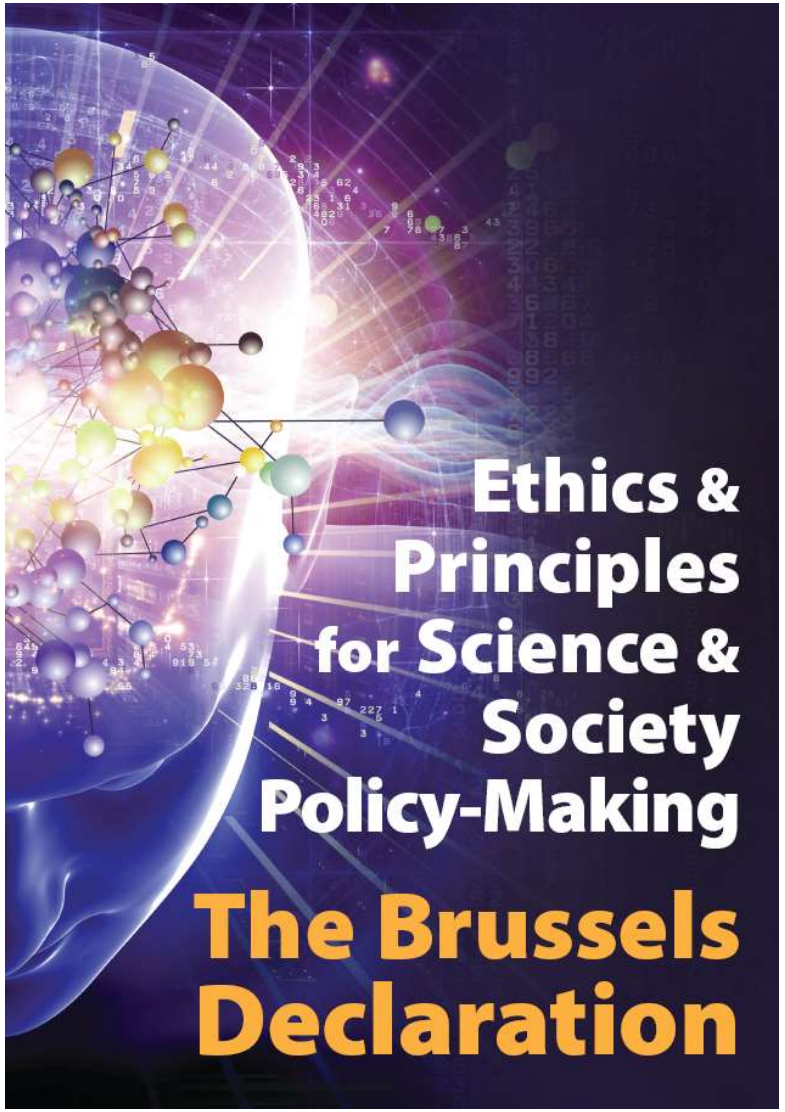
Adopted Feb. 2017 at AAAS symposium, 5y gestation

Hundreds of experts involved



J. McCambridge, M. Daube, and M. McKee, "Brussels Declaration: a vehicle for the advancement of tobacco and alcohol industry interests at the science/policy interface?" Tob. Control, Jun. 2018.

L. Bero, "Ten tips for spotting industry involvement in science policy." Tob. Control, Jun. 2018.



What do ‘they’ say?


VICTOR
"HIS MASTER'S VOICE"
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

“Regulatory policy is increasingly made with the participation of experts, especially academics. A regulated firm or industry should be prepared whenever possible to co-opt these experts. This is most effectively done by identifying the leading expert in each relevant field and hiring them as consultants or advisors or giving them research grant or the like”

Owen, B. M., & Braeutigam, R., 1978 The regulation game, : Strategic Use of the Administrative Process, Ballinger Press

“This activity requires a modicum of finesse; it must not be too blatant, for the experts themselves must not recognize that they have lost their objectivity and freedom of action”

Thanks to Erik Millstone

Owen, B. M., & Braeutigam, R., 1978 The regulation game, : Strategic Use of the Administrative Process, Ballinger Press

US news

Science institute that advised EU and UN 'actually industry lobby group'

International Life Sciences Institute used by corporate backers to counter public health policies, says study

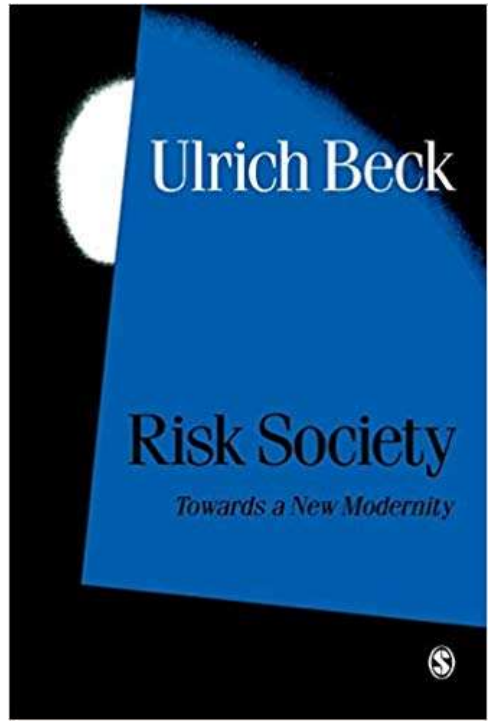
Arthur Neslen

Mon 3 Jun 2019 03.00 BST

Regulatory capture in the name of enlightenment?

Science and its institutions – especially when operating at the science – policy interface, appear vulnerable to forms of societal penetration and control where lobbyists present themselves as upholders of the values of the Enlightenment against science's (and progress') purported enemies.

"…from the experts and the fundamental controversies they have fought out (or not fought out) one can learn how unwelcome results can be blocked *professionally*…"



COMMENT · 21 MAY 2019

Views from a continent in flux

Nature asked nine leading Europeans to pick their top priority for science at this pivotal point. Love, money, and trust got most votes.

Carlos Moedas, Isabelle Vernos ✉, Stephan Kuster ✉, Helga Nowotny ✉, Andrea Saltelli ✉, Alina Mungiu-Pippidi ✉, Jan Wouter Vasbinder ✉, Daniel R. Brooks & Patrick Cunningham ✉

ANDREA SALTELLI

Save science from itself

All that matters operates simultaneously in science, technology, economics, law and policy … battles in which science, ideology and special interests collide… social media imprint unprecedented reach and acceleration

ANDREA SALTELLI

Save science from itself

Science to inform policy decisions versus science lending a veil of rationality to the same decisions

Science as a source of emancipation versus science as the currency of lobbies

Artificial intelligence & big data foster inequality and power asymmetries in platform and surveillance capitalism.

Ethics washing in evidence based policy

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

EU guidelines

08.04.2019, 15:48 Uhr

Ethics washing made in Europe

By Thomas Metzinger

On Tuesday, the EU has published ethics guidelines for artificial intelligence. A member of the expert group that drew up the paper says: This is a case of ethical white-washing

> "… a compromise of which I am not proud, but which is nevertheless the best in the world on the subject"

https://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/eu-guidelines-ethics-washing-made-in-europe/24195496.html

A commission of 52 members, “with only four ethicists alongside 48 non-ethicists – representatives from politics, universities, civil society, and above all industry”

OK to involve industry from the start to get the sector onboard but “The guidelines are lukewarm, short-sighted and deliberately vague”

“They ignore long-term risks, gloss over difficult problems …with rhetoric, violate elementary principles of rationality and pretend to know things that nobody really knows”

Expression such as “non-negotiable” and “Red Lines” had to be dropped for the sake of a “positive vision”

https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/ethics-guidelines-trustworthy-ai

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

The guidelines touch on hot issues such as

- citizens scoring,
- autonomous lethal weapons,
- covert AI systems,
- tracking of individuals…

https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/ethics-guidelines-trustworthy-ai

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

This amounts to “ethics washing = cultivating ethical debates to buy time, distract the public and to prevent or at least delay effective regulation

… industry is building one “ethics washing machine” after another”

Since China is already embarked in “digital totalitarianism” and little hope of strong regulation from the US, Europe bears the responsibility

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

The EU guidelines are good by comparison, but

"Because industry acts more quickly and efficiently than politics or the academic sector, there is a risk that, as with "Fake News", we will now also have a problem with fake ethics"

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

The innovation principle

English EN

Home > Research and innovation > Law and regulations > Innovation-friendly legislation

Ensuring EU legislation supports innovation

What the Innovation Principle is, how it was developed, links to Innovation Deals as well as the better regulation research and innovation tool.

The innovation principle

European Commission

Ensuring EU legislation supports innovation

What is the Innovation Principle?

The Innovation Principle is a tool to help achieve EU policy objectives by ensuring that legislation is designed in a way that creates the best possible conditions for innovation to flourish.

The principle means that in future when the Commission develops new initiatives it will take into account the effect on innovation.

This will ensure that all new EU policy or regulations support innovation and that the regulatory framework in Europe is innovation-friendly.

Against the principle of precaution:

"How an industry association wrote a new principle on innovation and succeeded in introducing this [innovation] principle into a number of European Union (EU) texts"

Garnett, Kathleen & Van Calster, Geert & Reins, Leonie. (2018). Towards an innovation principle: an industry trump or shortening the odds on environmental protection?. Law, Innovation and Technology. 10. 1-14. 10.1080/17579961.2018.1455023.

“This is the first time an industry association has successfully tried to introduce a new principle into the EU’s legal order”

Garnett, Kathleen & Van Calster, Geert & Reins, Leonie. (2018). Towards an innovation principle: an industry trump or shortening the odds on environmental protection?. Law, Innovation and Technology. 10. 1-14. 10.1080/17579961.2018.1455023.

The End

@andreasaltelli