

Regulatory capture in the name of Enlightenment

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EVIDENCE



Dorothy Dankel
University of
Bergen



Nina Holland
Corporate Europe
Observatory

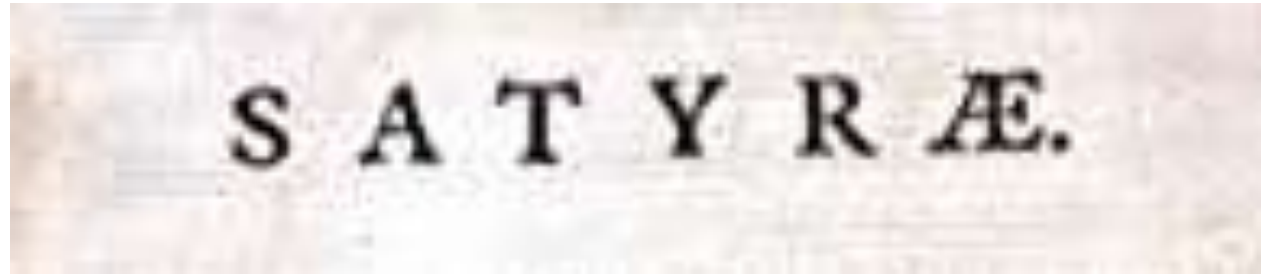


Martin Pigeon
Corporate Europe
Observatory

C o a u t h o r s



quis
custodiet
ipsos
custodes?



Decimus Junius Juvenalis
1st century AD

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

The ineluctability of regulatory capture cuts across schools of economic thought: public interest theory and regulatory capture theory



Arthur Cecil Pigou
1877 –1959

George J. Stigler
1911 –1991



Cognitive capture?

“regulators may come to view the world the way firms do, not because they have been captured through incentives, but because they have been convinced” (Dal Bó, 2006)

Cognitive capture?

The battle about dominating the sociotechnical imaginary ...



Sheila Jasanoff



George Lakoff



Philip Mirowski

... for scholars as George Lakoff and Philip Mirowski the neoliberals seem to have won that battle

What has science or enlightenment to do with all that?

Corporate policy to get ‘the best’ among scientists (Owen, B. M., & Braeutigam, R., 1978)...

... Seducing them ‘with a modicum of finesse’



What has science or enlightenment to do with all that?

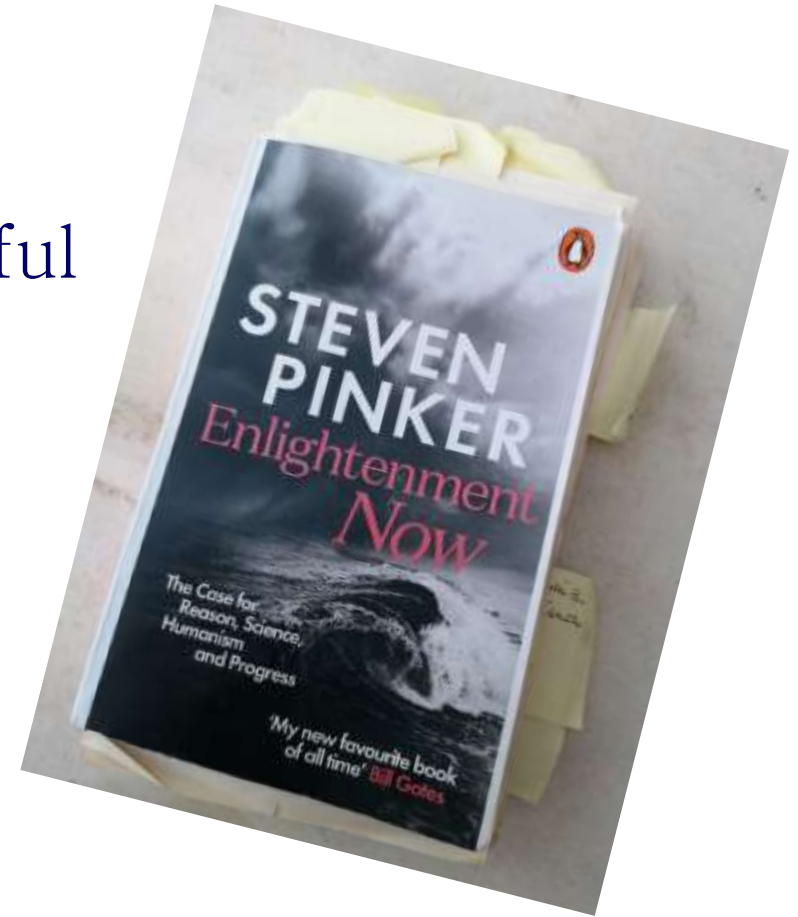
“Sound science”: how the chemical, pharmaceutical, surgical, food, tobacco, sugar companies fund friendly science and seed doubt about adversarial one



Source: <https://theintercept.com/2016/11/15/how-self-appointed-guardians-of-sound-science-tip-the-scales-toward-industry/>

What has science or enlightenment to do with all that?

Depicting those concerned with the governance of technologies as ungrateful cultural pessimists (Pinker, S., 2018)



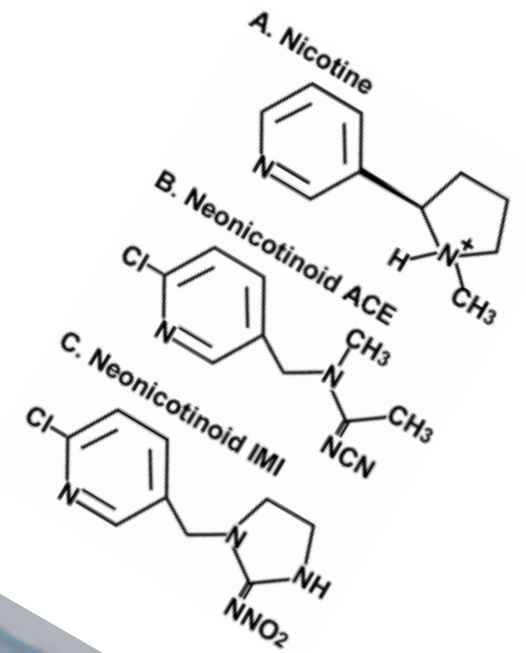
What has science or enlightenment to do with all that?

Increasing sophistication in colonizing instances where science's policy & science for policy are made (recent years)



The cases

1. The Brussels declaration
2. The innovation principle
3. Ethic washing; Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI
4. The EU Science Advice Mechanism: Will corporate interests succeed in using scientific advice to influence EU policy-making?
5. The crisis at Cochrane
6. Whose truth counts as evidence; pharmaceutical products
7. Seventh case: Neonicotinoids: who sets the tests
8. The Boeing 737 Max self-regulation



Methods

Bibliographic sources



and myself

Investigative work (FOIA)



The 2017 Brussels declaration



- Promoted by World Science Forum
- Journal Nature (January 2017)
- Announced by (AAAS, February 2017)
- Events in 2012–2016, 300 individuals from 35 countries
- President of ERC, Former Chief Science Adviser to EC President, European Commission's cadres, Lancet's Richard Horton...

Published: 19 January 2017

nature

Brussels Declaration

Twenty-point plan for science policy

Michel Kazatchkine, Julian Kinderlerer & Aidan Gilligan 

Nature 541, 289(2017) | [Cite this article](#)

138 Accesses | 1 Citations | 19 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)



ADVANCING SCIENCE, SERVING SOCIETY

Then someone pulls
the alarm



THE LANCET

Volume 396 Number 91253 Pages 731-768 September 13-18, 2020 www.thelancet.com

Richard Horton laments his name, photo, and one of his statements being dragged into a document “whose intention seems to be to undermine the value of science in policy making, and was created with the input of industries that are anathema to health”

What had happened?

The event had an important presence of alcohol and tobacco lobbies



Source: <https://www.gr8ambitionz.com/>

What is written in the declaration?

Scientists must learn to use established communication channels for providing policy advice more effectively and be less aloof and perhaps less arrogant.



Scientists need to recognise that they are advocates with vested interests too—in their case, in their own science.



Industry is an investor in knowledge generation and science and has every right to have its voice heard.



Nevertheless, industry is too often perceived as suffering from fatal conflicts of interest and its views are therefore dismissed. 🤔

In fact, commercial conflicts of interest are fairly easy to deal with if they are properly declared and the relationship between the science and the marketing made explicit. 🤔

Ideological, personal, or academic conflicts of interest, on the other hand, are much harder to detect or deal with.



... the precautionary principle must not be misused in a way that impedes technological progress towards reducing risk or public harms.



Why are
scientists so
gullible?



Lisa A. Bero, University of Sidney, author of “Ten tips for spotting industry involvement in science policy”

2. Innovation principle: How can corporate influence lead to the creation of a new EU principle?



Home > News > Innovation principle makes EU laws smarter and future-oriented, experts say

NEWS | 25 November 2019 | Brussels, Belgium | Research and Innovation

Innovation principle makes EU laws smarter and future-oriented, experts say

3. Ethic washing: Guidelines for AI. Are scientific ethical committees a venue lobbyists?



Thomas Metzinger

4. The EU science advice mechanism: Can science advisors resist lobbyists?

Ann Glover



5. Crisis at Cochrane: Can industrial interests infiltrate influence the discussion of how better science is produced?

Peter Gøtzsche



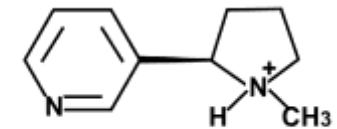
6. Pharmaceuticals: In the battle for which evidence counts, how can lobbies mobilize experts, regulators, scientific journals and media?



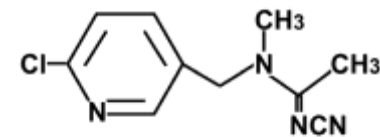
7. Neonicotinoids: How can corporate power manage to influence the methodologies whereby evidence is produced? (talk of Jeroen van der Sluijs at PNS_4)



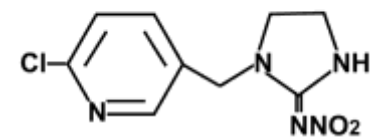
A. Nicotine



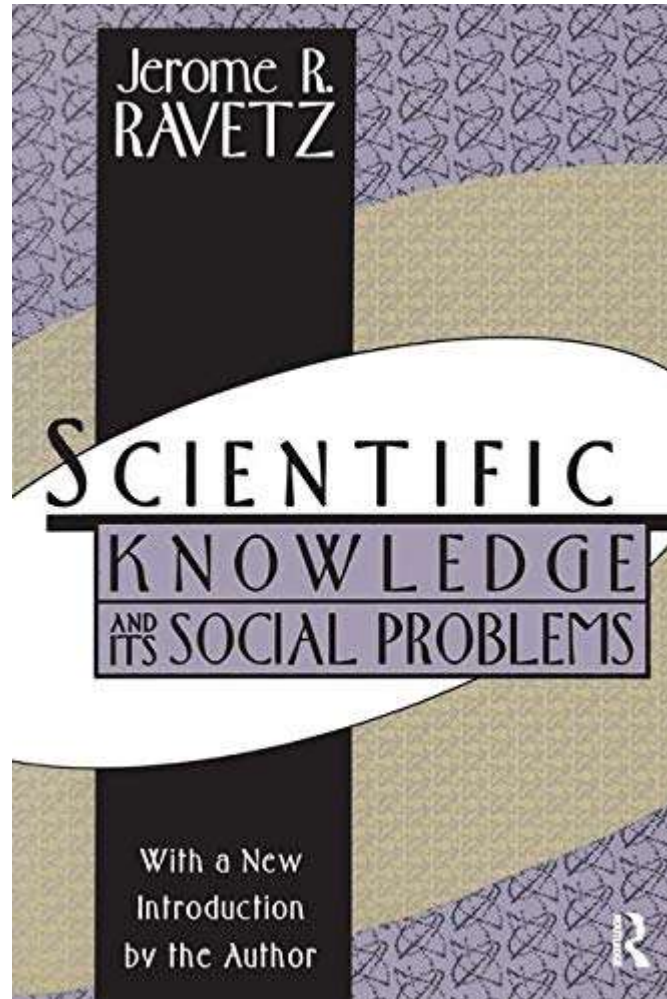
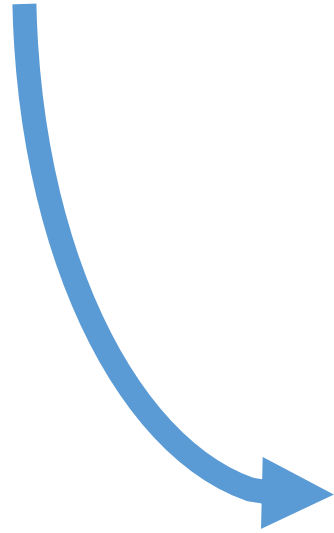
B. Neonicotinoid ACE



C. Neonicotinoid IMI

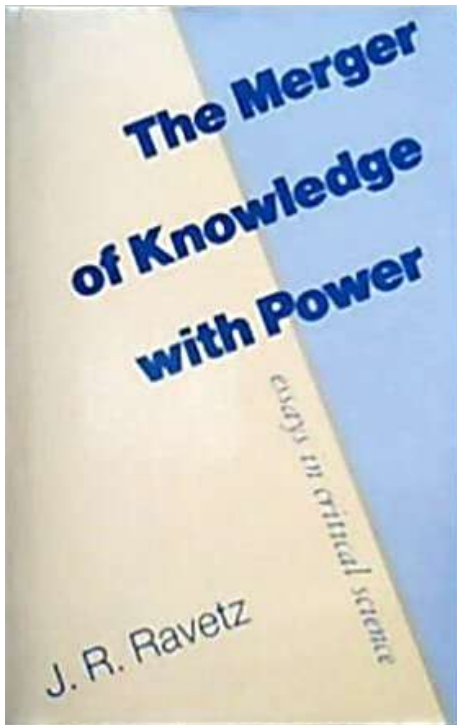


8. Boeing 737: Can regulatory capture lead to the erosion of technical craft skills needed to run our societies?



What role for PNS: resistance

Against cognitive capture, power and knowledge asymmetry, colonization of science by corporate power, pretended scientific and methodological neutralities, for different sociotechnical imaginaries and a new covenant between science and society



Environmental Science & Policy

Volume 106, April 2020, Pages 87-98



The technique is never neutral. How methodological choices condition the generation of narratives for sustainability

Andrea Saltelli^{a, b, c, d, e}, Lorenzo Benini^c, Silvio Funtowicz^a, Mario Giampietro^{d, e}, Matthias Kaiser^a, Erik Reinert^{a, f}, Jeroen P. van der Sluijs^{a, g, h}

POST-NORMAL PANDEMICS: WHY COVID-19 REQUIRES A NEW APPROACH TO SCIENCE



Two (or more) heads are better than one. Original image: 1961, Designer Janine Stamm, Brain Puzzles (c. by 2.0) <https://bit.ly/1Av1ZY>

March 25th, 2020 7 Comments



PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY

Guest post by David Waltner-Toews¹, Annibale Biggeri², Bruna De Marchi³, Silvio Funtowicz³, Mario Giampietro^{4,5}, Martin O'Connor^{6,7}, Jerome R. Ravetz⁸, Andrea Saltelli^{3,9} and Jeroen P. van der Sluijs^{3,10}

Readings

E. Dal Bó, “Regulatory capture: a review” Oxford Rev. Econ. Policy, vol. 22, pp. 203–225, 2006.

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

<http://www.andreasaltelli.eu/file/repository/Chapter1.pdf>

P. Mirowski, “Hell Is Truth Seen Too Late,” Bound. 2, vol. 46, no. 1, pp. 1–53, Feb. 2019.

Brussels declaration: <https://www.sci-com.eu/main/docs/Brussels-Declaration.pdf>

L. Bero, “Ten tips for spotting industry involvement in science policy,” Tob. Control, p. tobaccocontrol-2018-054386, Jun. 2018.

Jim McCambridge, Mike Daube, Martin McKee, Brussels Declaration: a vehicle for the advancement of tobacco and alcohol industry interests at the science/policy interface? 10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2018-054264, June 25, 2018

The End



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