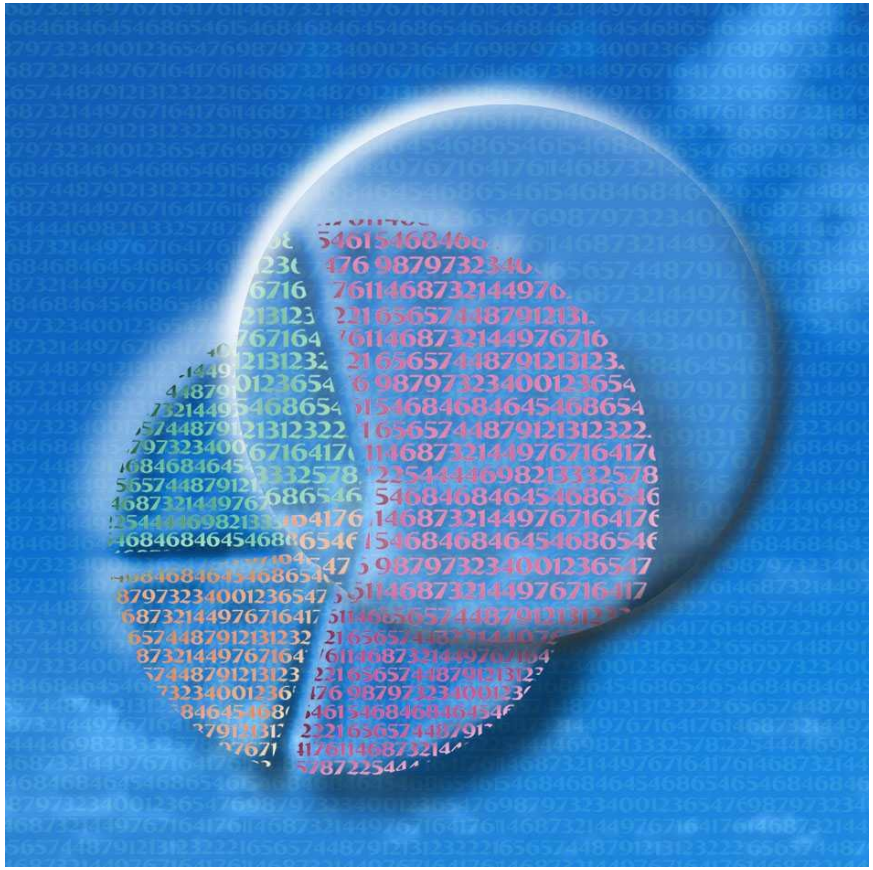


Crisis? What Crisis?

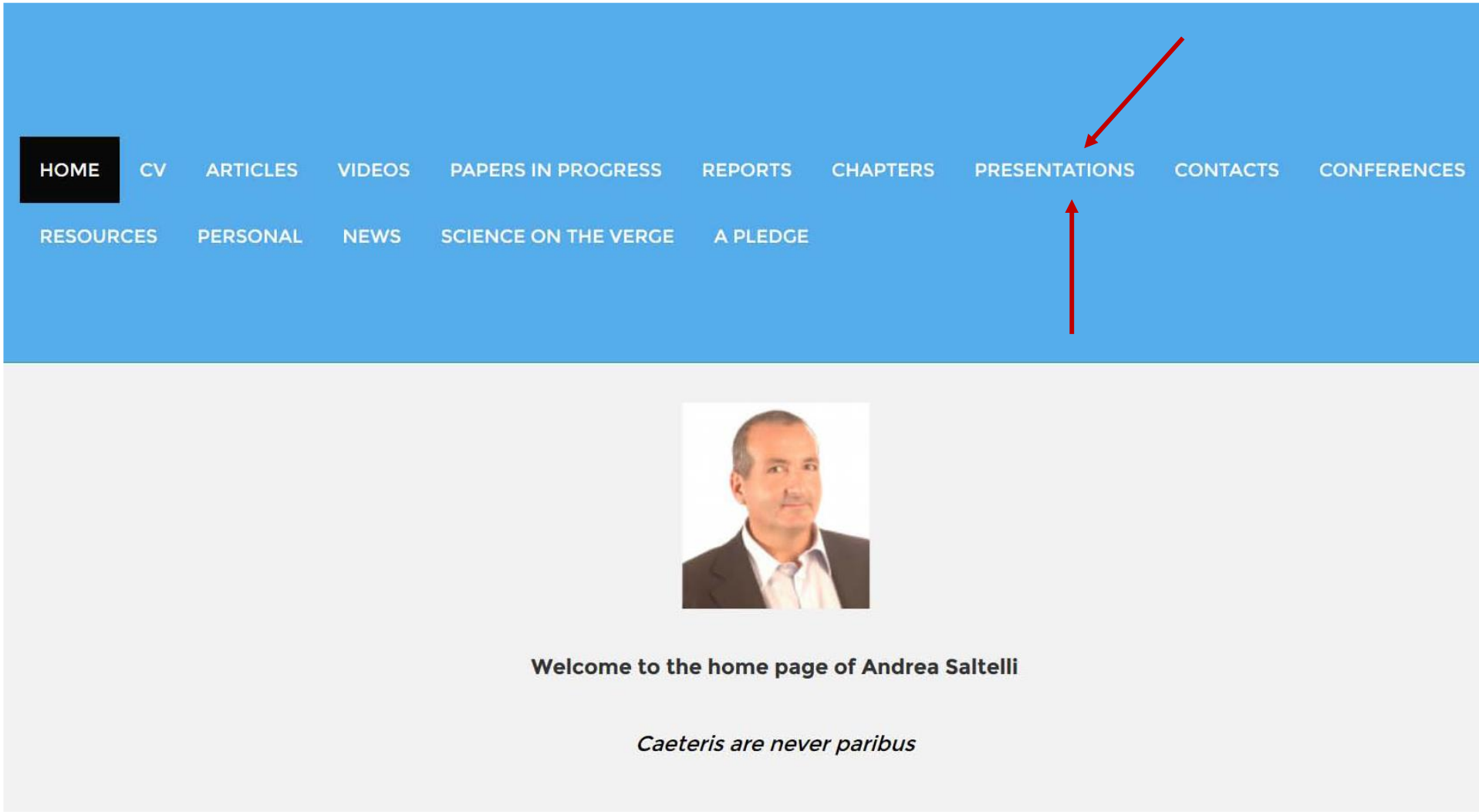
12:30 to 13:45 in CDMA building,
rue du Champ de Mars, 21,
Bruxelles, SDR1 & 2 on the -1 floor,
Friday May 13 2016

Andrea Saltelli[(a)],
discussant: René von Schomberg[(b)]

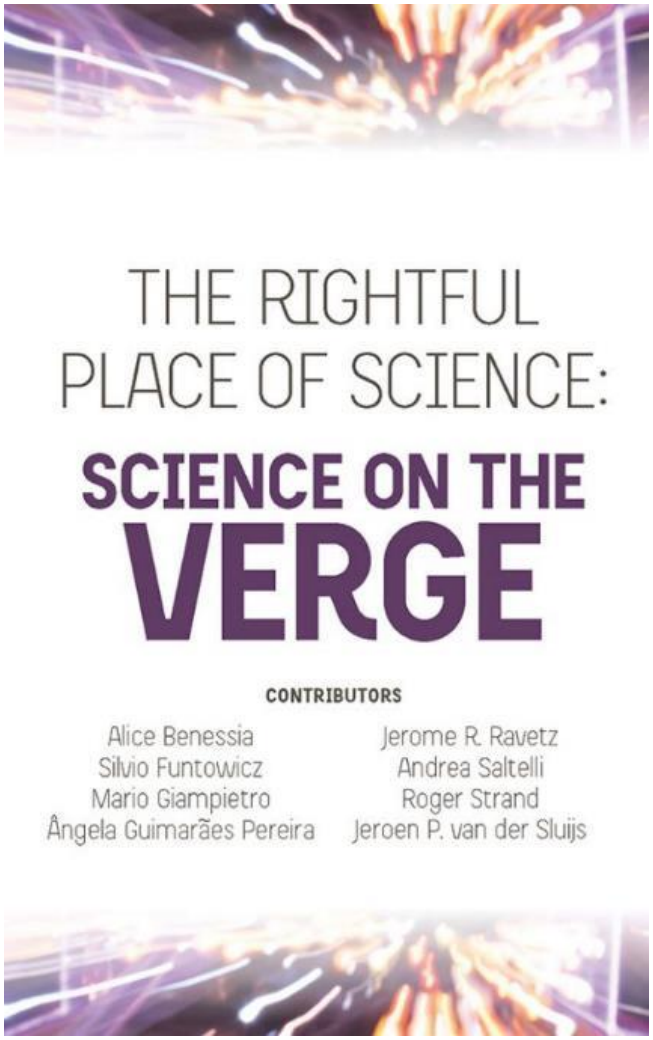
(a) European Centre for Governance in Complexity, Universities of Bergen (NO) and Autonoma of Barcelona (ES)
(b) European Commission, DG RTD, Open science policy coordination and development

andrea.saltelli@uib.no

www.andreasaltelli.eu



Where to find this presentation



The Rightful Place of Science: Science on the Verge

Paperback – 20 Feb 2016

by Andrea Saltelli (Author), Alice Benessia (Author), & 7 more

1 customer review

See all formats and editions

Kindle Edition	**Paperback**
£3.61	**£6.99**

http://www.amazon.com/Rightful-Place-Science-Verge/dp/0692596380/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1456255907&sr=1-1&keywords=saltelli

http://www.andreasaltelli.eu/science-on-the-verge

The crisis has ethical, epistemological, methodological and even metaphysical dimensions;

Root causes of the crisis, from history and philosophy of science scholarship to present-day historical critique of commodified science;

The crisis of science *qua science* impacts science as used for policy.

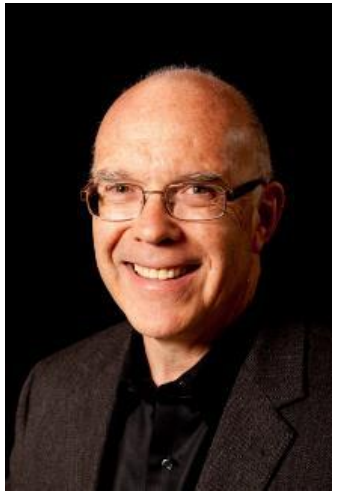
Identified points of friction:

- paradigm of evidence-based policy
- use of science to produce implausibly precise numbers and reassuring techno-scientific imaginaries
- use of science to ‘compel’ decision by the sheer strength of ‘facts’

Is there a crisis?

Crisis? What Crisis?

- Generation of new data/ publications at an unprecedented rate.
- Compelling evidence that the majority of these discoveries will not stand the test of time.
- Causes: failure to adhere to good scientific practice & the desperation to publish or perish.
- This is a multifaceted, multistakeholder problem.
- No single party is solely responsible, and no single solution will suffice.



C. Glenn Begley

John P. A. Ioannides

Begley, C. G., and Ioannidis, J. P., 2015, Reproducibility in Science. Improving the Standard for Basic and Preclinical Research, Circulation Research, 116, 116-126, doi: 10.1161/CIRCRESAHA.114.303819

Unreliable research

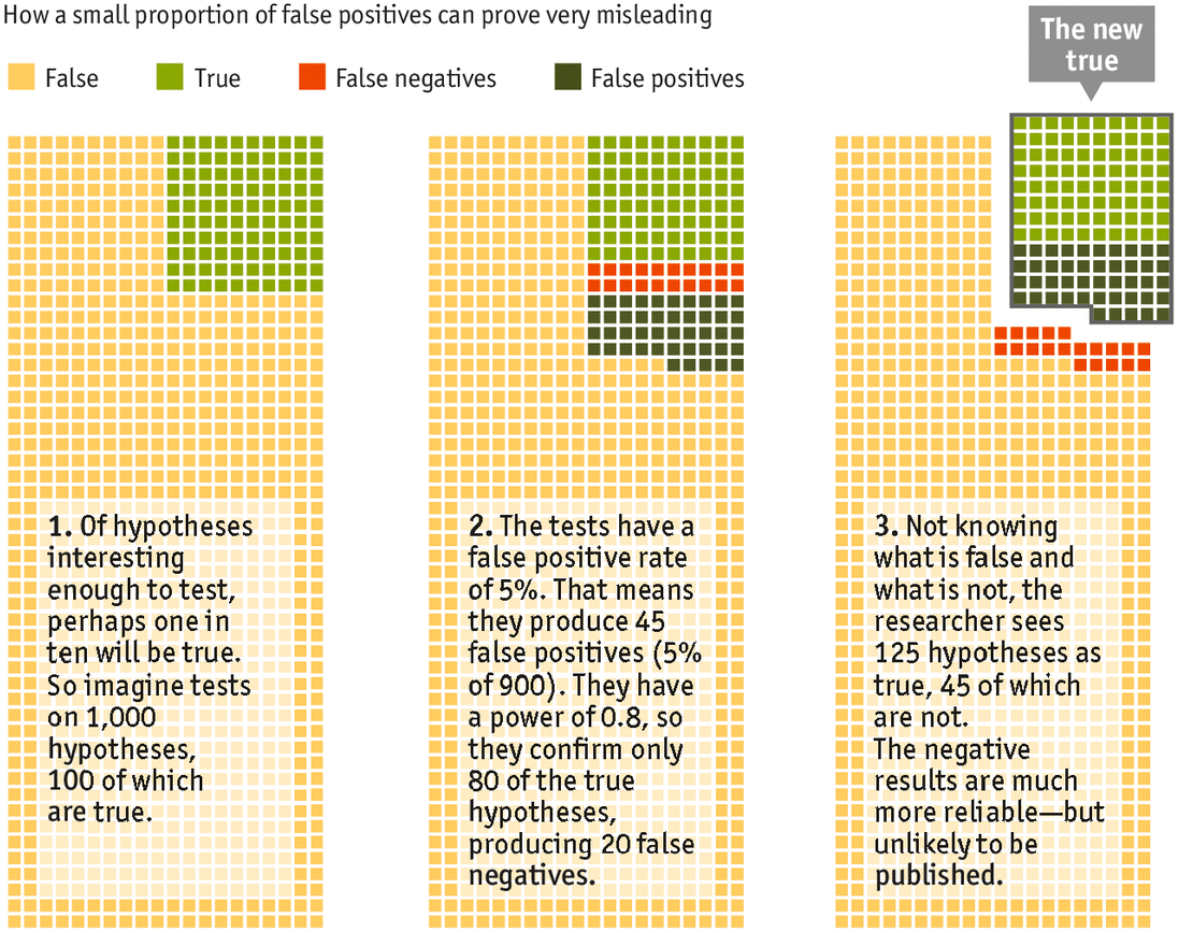
Trouble at the lab

Scientists like to think of science as self-correcting. To an alarming degree, it is not

Oct 19th 2013 | From the print edition

Unlikely results

How a small proportion of false positives can prove very misleading



Source: *The Economist*

Ioannidis J P A

2005 Why Most Published Research Findings Are False PLoS Medicine 2(8) 696–701, a source of The Economist's piece.

The Economist

"A career structure which lays great stress on publishing copious papers exacerbates all these problems", Brian Nosek, quoted by The Economist.

The Economist

“There is no cost to getting things wrong. The cost is not getting them published”, Brian Nosek again

The Economist

A landmark effort to reproduce the findings of 100 recent papers in psychology failed in more than half the cases – and the effects were smaller than claimed in the original studies (Brian Nosek's work).

Brian Nosek
Professor,
Department of
Psychology
University of Virginia

Baker, M., 2015, Over half of psychology studies fail reproducibility test. Largest replication study to date casts doubt on many published positive results, Nature, 27 August 2015.

OSC, Open Science Collaboration, 2015, Estimating the reproducibility of psychological science, SCIENCE, 349(6251) aac4716. DOI: 10.1126/science.aac4716

Yong, E., Nobel laureate challenges psychologists to clean up their act, Nature, News, 03 October 2012.

... and a couter study saying that Nosek's team got it wrong.

Gilbert, D. T., King, G., Pettigrew, S. & Wilson, T. D. Science 351, 1037 (2016).

Solutions from within:

Four international conferences on science integrity between 2007 and 2015.

San Francisco declaration, (2012), as of May 2016 signed by 12,700 individuals, and 591 organizations.

"Do not use journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factor, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles to assess an individual scientist's contributions, or in hiring, promotion, or funding decisions."

Declaration: http://am.ascb.org/dora/ , drafted by publishers, with separate recommendations for institutions, publishers, organizations that supply metrics and researchers.
Lancet, Editorial, 2015, Rewarding true inquiry and diligence in research, 385, p. 2121.
Wilsdon, J., 2015, We need a measured approach to metrics, Nature, 523, 129.
See also The Metric Tide Report in the UK (REF)

Solutions from within:

- Ioannides (2014): a checklist of remedies

John P. A. Ioannides

"[…] adoption of large-scale collaborative research; replication culture; registration; sharing; reproducibility practices; better statistical methods; […] and improvement in study design standards, peer review, […] training of the scientific workforce"

Ioannidis, J. P. (2014). How to Make More Published Research True. PLoS medicine, 11(10), e1001747.

Summary Points

- Currently, many published research findings are false or exaggerated, and an estimated 85% of research resources are wasted.

John P. A. Ioannides

Ioannidis, J. P. (2014). How to Make More Published Research True. PLoS medicine, 11(10), e1001747

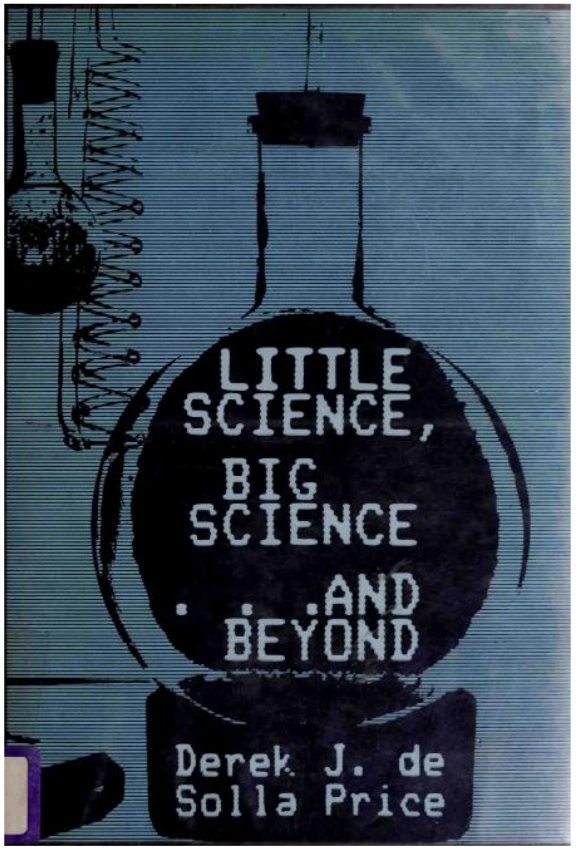
For Lancet (2015) an estimated US$200 billion were wasted in the US in 2010.

Lancet, Editorial, 2015, Rewarding true inquiry and diligence in research, 385, p. 2121.

Different readings of the crisis :

- Poor training, statistical design, hubris of data mining, perverse incentives, counterproductive metrics (e.g. Ioannidis; San Francisco Declaration,…)
- Science victim of its own success, exponential growth, senility by exponential growth & hyper-specialization (de Solla Price)
- Science as another victim of the neoliberal ideology (e.g. Mirowski)
- Science as a social enterprise whose quality control apparatus suffers under the mutated conditions of technoscience (Ravetz, Lyotard)

There were rare anticipations of this crisis. 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.

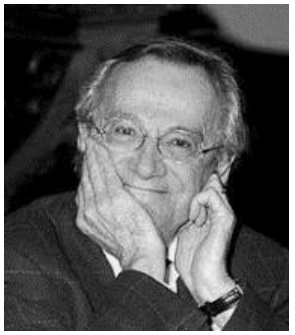
Science/knowledge degenerates when it becomes a commodity for Ravetz (1971), Lyotard (1979) and Mirowski (2011).

Ravetz, J., 1971, Scientific Knowledge and its Social Problems, Oxford University Press, p. 22.

Lyotard, J.-F. 1979. La Condition postmoderne. Rapport sur le savoir, Paris : Minuit, Chapter 10.

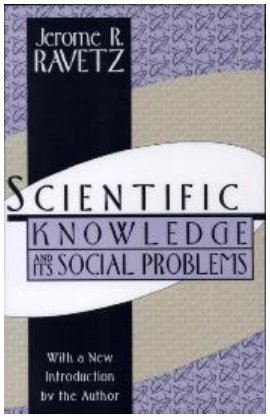
Mirowski, P. 2011. Science-Mart: Privatizing American Science, Harvard University Press.

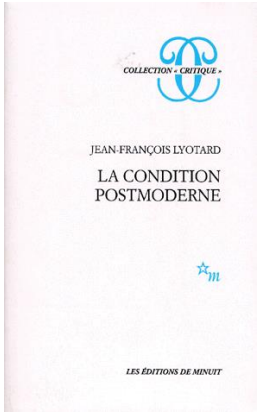
Jerome R. Ravetz

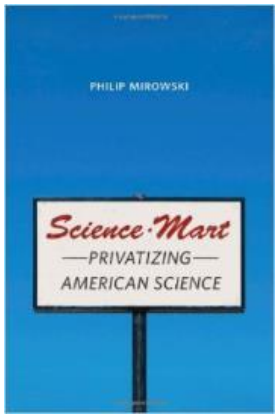


Jean-François Lyotard

Philip Mirowski

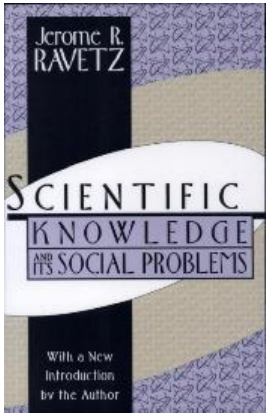






p.22: About the industrialization of science and the weakening of its quality control mechanism:

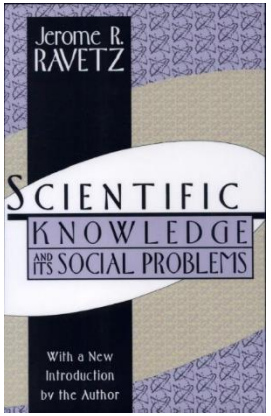
“The problem of quality control in science is […] at the centre of the social problems of the industrialized science […]. If it fails to resolve this problem […] then the immediate consequences for morale and recruitment will be serious; and those for the survival of science itself, grave”



Jerome R. Ravetz

Ravetz, J., 1971, Scientific Knowledge and its Social Problems, Oxford University Press, p.22.

p. 22-23: “Two separate factors are necessary for the achievement of worthwhile scientific results: a community of scholars with a shared knowledge of the standards of quality appropriate for their work and a shared commitment to enforce those standards by the informal sanctions the community possesses; and individuals whose personal integrity sets standards at least as high as those required by their community…”



Jerome R. Ravetz

Ravetz, J., 1971, Scientific Knowledge and its Social Problems, Oxford University Press, p.22.

Does the crisis impact science for policy & science's advice?

"Belinda Phipps, who took over at the Science Council last year, accused the sector of complacency and said the public trusted scientists only because they did not understand their work."

Whipple, T., The Times, February 22, 2016

THE TIMES

Science

News | Opinion | Business | Money | Sport | Life | Arts | Puzzles | Papers | Irish news

Welcome to your preview of The Times

Scientists 'should take ethics oath like doctors'

Tom Whipple Science Editor
Published at 12:01AM, February 22 2016

Scientists need their own version of the Hippocratic oath and a regulation system similar to doctors to avoid a big scandal, the head of their standards body has said.

Studies suggest that a significant proportion of scientific papers are not repeatable
Monty Rakusen/Corbis

Post a comment

"What struck me, coming into this sector is just how unregulated it is compared to the medical profession," Ms Phipps said. "Think what damage a scientist could do if he or she behaved badly or fraudulently. The potential damage is enormous, yet there is almost no regulation."

Whipple, T., The Times, February 22, 2016

THE TIMES

Science

News | Opinion | Business | Money | Sport | Life | Arts | Puzzles | Papers | Irish news

Welcome to your preview of The Times

Scientists 'should take ethics oath like doctors'

Tom Whipple Science Editor
Published at 12:01AM, February 22 2016

Scientists need their own version of the Hippocratic oath and a regulation system similar to doctors to avoid a big scandal, the head of their standards body has said.

Studies suggest that a significant proportion of scientific papers are not repeatable
Monty Rakusen/Corbis

Post a comment

Ignoring the connection between science's crisis and science advice?

The OECD report on Science Advice 2015; not a single mention of science's crisis.

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

http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/5js33l1jcpwb.pdf?expires=1442656356&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=AF1467AD25FF8BE6516083077CCEE31A

Those aspect of science most used in policy (mathematical and statistical modelling) are also those more vulnerable to abuse

IN FOCUS NEWS

REPRODUCIBILITY

Statisticians issue warning on *P* values

Statement aims to halt missteps in the quest for certainty.

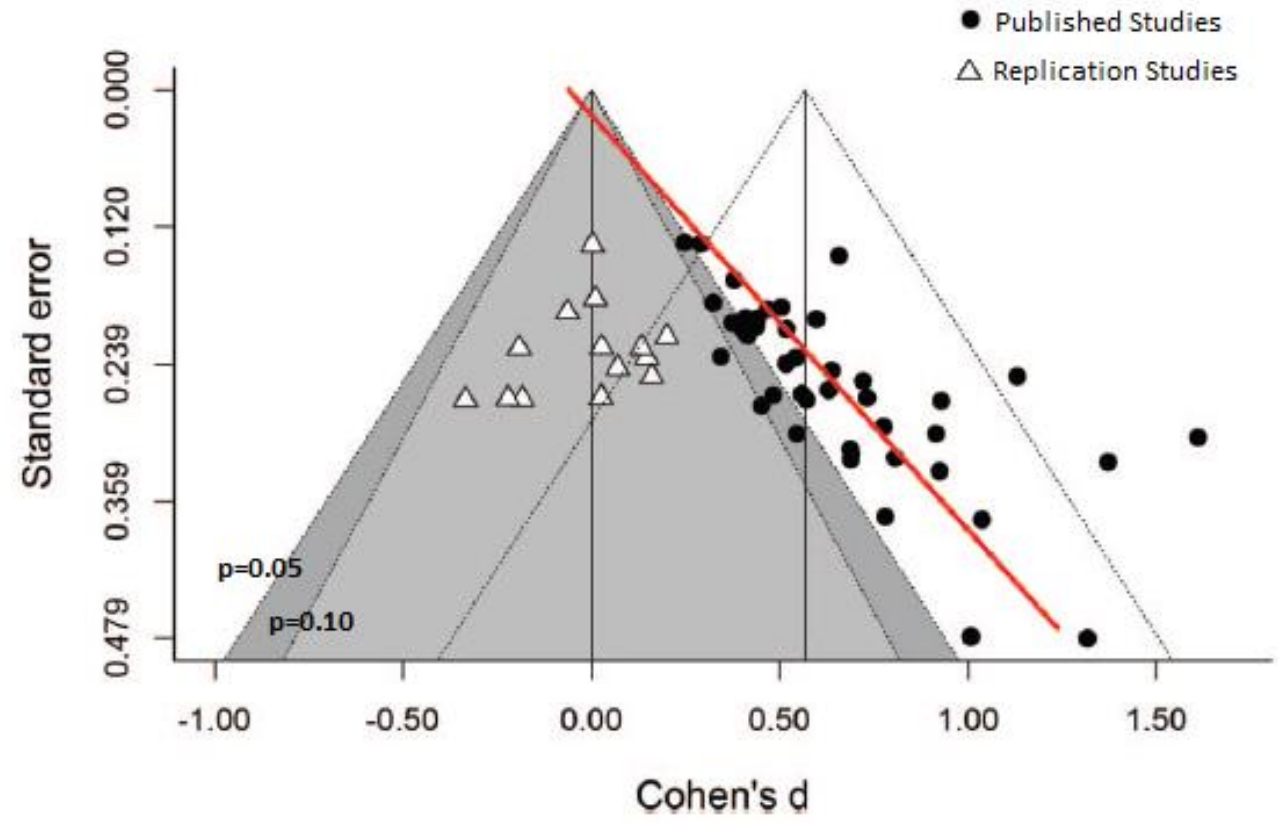
"Misuse of the P value — a common test for judging the strength of scientific evidence — is contributing to the number of research findings that cannot be reproduced"

Baker, M., 2016, Statisticians issue warning on P values, Nature, 531, 151.

… and twenty ‘dissenting’ commentaries

Wasserstein, R.L. and Lazar, N.A., 2016. ‘The ASA's statement on p-values: context, process, and purpose’, The American Statistician, DOI:10.1080/00031305.2016.1154108.

"P-hacking's smoking gun"



Shanks et al. (2015) JEP:General

J Exp Psychol Gen. 2015 Oct 26. "Romance, Risk, and Replication: Can Consumer Choices and Risk-Taking Be Primed by Mating Motives?", Shanks DR, Vadillo MA, Riedel B, Clymo A, Govind S, Hickin N, Tamman AJ, Puhlmann LM.: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26501730

New Scientists talks of "dodgy statistics" and "statistical sausage factory"

FEATURE 13 April 2016

Why so much science research is flawed – and what to do about it

Dodgy results are fuelling flawed policy decisions and undermining medical advances. They could even make us lose faith in science. **New Scientist** investigates

An alarming amount of research is flawed

Brett Ryder

Solution? Methods

- NUSAP, is a notational system for the management and communication of uncertainty in science for policy

Funtowicz, S. O. and Ravetz, J. R., 1990. Uncertainty and quality in science for policy. Dordrecht: Kluwer.

Solutions? Methods

- Sensitivity auditing: testing the entire inferential chain

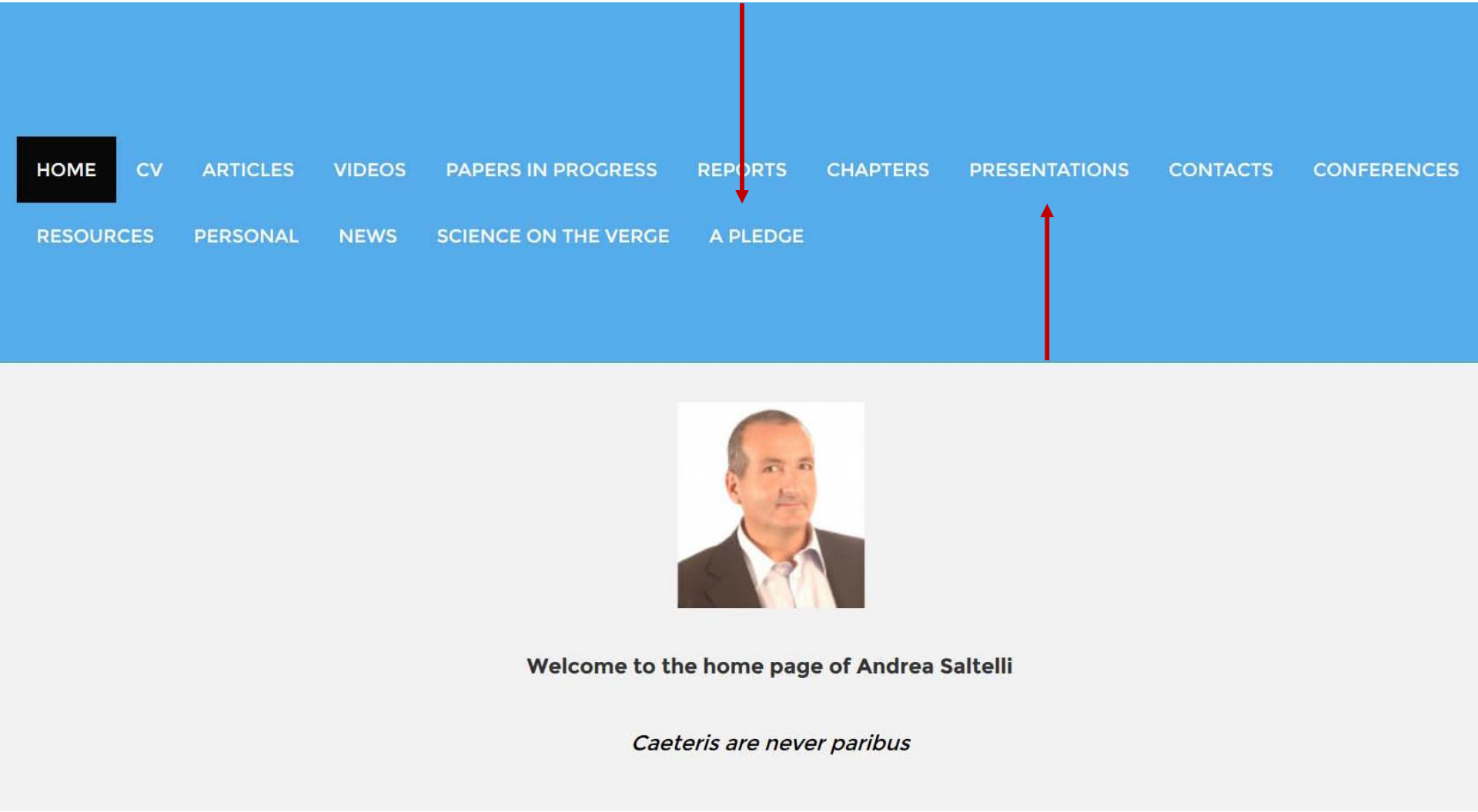
In the **EC impact assessment guidelines**; JRC teaches it twice a year since 2009. Last course April 28-29 this year.

See slides at http://www.andreasaltelli.eu/presentations

Saltelli, A., Funtowicz, S., 2014, When all models are wrong: More stringent quality criteria are needed for models used at the science-policy interface, Issues in Science and Technology, Winter 2014, 79-85.
http://issues.org/30-2/andrea/

Workshop organized by the JRC June 2015: 'Significant Digits: Responsible Use of Quantitative Information' in June 2015, see a video recording https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/workshop/new-narratives-innovation.

Solutions? Methods? Next? Quantitative story telling, responsible quantification, ethics of quantification (Utrecht, November 2016) …



My experience of the crisis in the quality of quantifications: perfunctory sensitivity analyses, fantastically precise digits…

nature International weekly journal of science

Home | News & Comment | Research | Careers & Jobs | Current Issue | Archive | Audio & Video | For A

Archive > Volume 532 > Issue 7598 > Correspondence > Article

ARTICLE PREVIEW

view full access options ▸

NATURE | CORRESPONDENCE

Modelling: Climate costing is politics not science

Andrea Saltelli

Nature **532**, 177 (14 April 2016) | doi:10.1038/532177a

Published online 13 April 2016

Saltelli, A., Funtowicz, S., Giampietro, M., Sarewitz, D., Stark, P.B., van der Sluijs, J.P., 2016, Climate costing is politics not science, Nature, 14 April, 532, 177.

Demarcation: facts separate from values

On demarcation:

"the incoming commission must find better ways of separating evidence-gathering processes from the 'political imperative'", A. Glover, former Chief Science Adviser of President Barroso (Wildson, 2014).

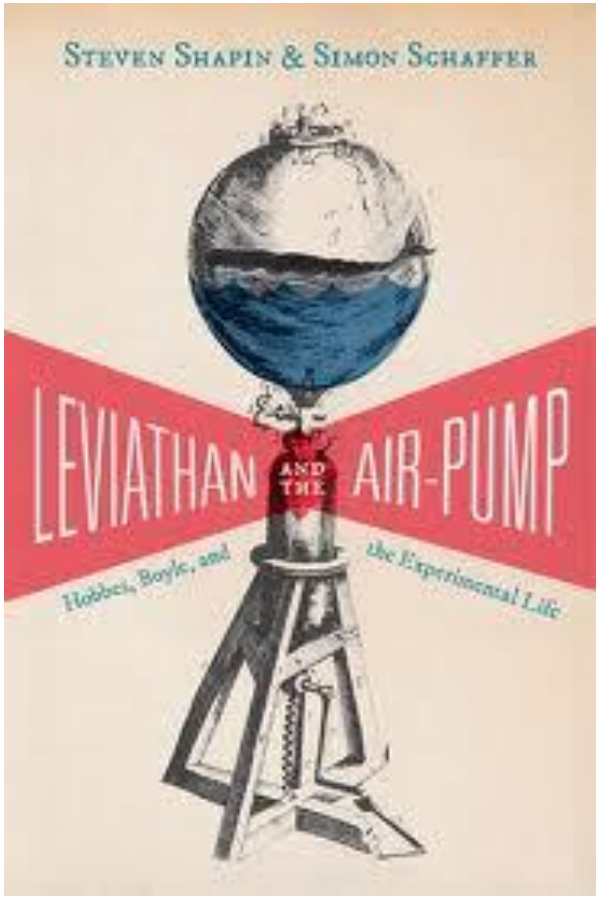
Anne Glover

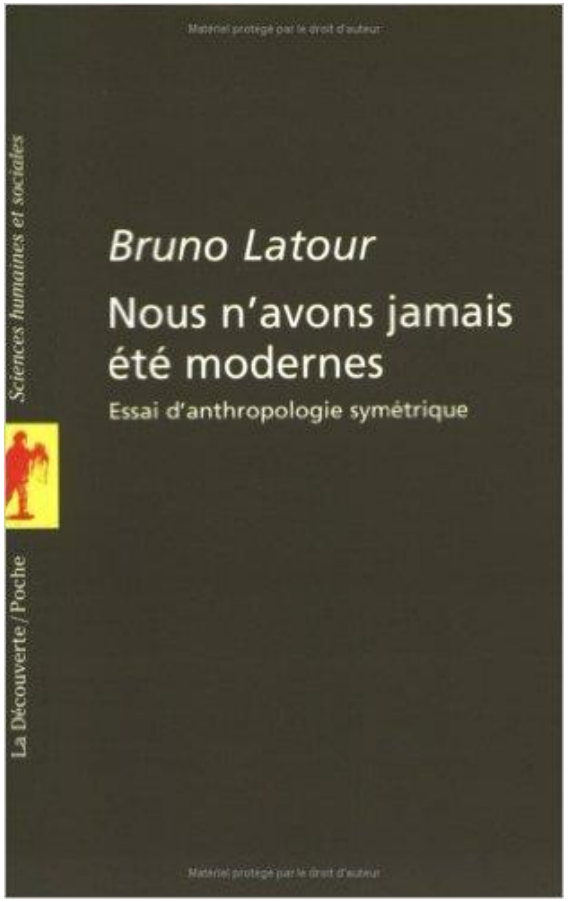
Wilsdon, J. 2014. Evidence-based Union? A new alliance for science advice in Europe. In The Guardian. Available at: http://www.theguardian.com/science/political-science/2014/jun/23/evidence-based-union-a-new-alliance-for-science-advice-in-europe.

Evidence based policy: separation of facts from values, of scientists from their customers, on demarcation of roles…

Give science enough time and truth will emerge …

This separation has been said to defines modernity …





Shapin, S., Schaffer, S., 1985, Leviathan and the Air-Pump: Hobbes, Boyle, and the Experimental Life, Princeton, 2011 Edition
Latour, B., 1991, Nous n'avons jamais été modernes, Editions La découverte, 1993; We Have Never Been Modern. Cambridge, Harvard UP.

‘Demarcation model’ of science’s input to policy

- Protecting science from the political interference…
- Preventing possible abuse of science…
- … and scientific information driven by agendas…
- Prescribes a clear demarcation between the institutions (and individuals) who provide the science, and those where it is used.

Funtowicz, S. 2006. What is Knowledge Assessment? In Guimarães Pereira, Â., Guedes Vaz, S. and Tognetti, S. (eds) Interfaces between Science and Society. Greenleaf Publishers, Sheffield.

Solution?
More recent epistemologies:

‘Post Normal Science’ (Funtowicz and Ravetz, 1993), ‘Co-production of knowledge’ model (Jasanoff, 1996).

Sheila Jasanoff

Funtowicz, S. O. & Ravetz, J. R. 1993. Science for the post-normal age. Futures, 25(7), 739-755.

Jasanoff, S. 1996, Beyond Epistemology: Relativism and Engagement in the Politics of Science. Social Studies of Science. 26(2) 393-418.

Childhood obesity: The challenge of policy development in areas of post-normal science

***Speaker**: Sir Peter Gluckman (Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister, Co-Chair of the WHO Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity)*

Post Normal Science's model of Extended Participation: (1) across disciplines – acknowledging that different disciplines see though different lenses, and (2) across communities of both experts and stakeholders;

From 'speaking truth to power' towards 'working deliberatively within imperfections';

Science is but one among a plurality of relevant knowledges;

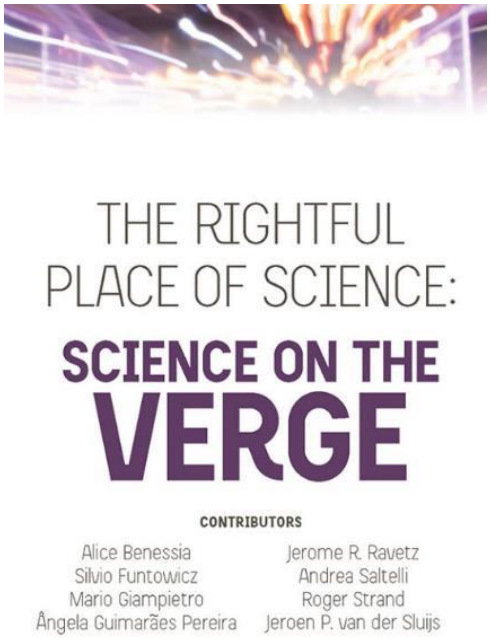
Facts become 'extended facts'.

Funtowicz, S. O. & Ravetz, J. R. 1993. Science for the post-normal age. Futures, 25(7), 739–755.

Gluckman, P., 2014, Policy: The art of science advice to government, Nature, 507, 163–165.

For my JRC ex-colleagues and friends:

Chapter Four: what JRC should/could do as a boundary organization … build extended peer communities … engage new forms of science … cultural change …



Could the Commission write a Green Paper on this crisis? Looking at solutions 'from outside' DYI science, citizens science, science in transition ….

https://www.theguardian.com/science/political-science/2016/may/12/to-confront-21st-century-challenges-science-needs-to-rethink-its-reward-system?CMP=twt_a-science_b-gdnscience

Where did this separation originate?

Francis Bacon
(1561-1626)

Magnalia Naturae, in the New Atlantis (1627), '*Wonders of nature, in particular with respect to human use*'

Demarcation is part of the Cartesian dream of man as master and possessor of nature, of prediction and control, of Bacon's wonders of science and Condorcet's mathematique sociale…

Nicolas de Caritat,
marquis de Condorcet
(1743- 1794)

'Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Spirit'

René
Descartes
(1596-1650)

Discourse on Method
(1637)

Francis Bacon
(1561-1626)

Magnalia Naturae, in the New Atlantis (1627), '*Wonders of nature, in particular with respect to human use*'

The prolongation of life; The restitution of youth in some degree; The retardation of age; The curing of diseases counted incurable; The mitigation of pain; More easy and less loathsome purgings; The increasing of strength and activity; The increasing of ability to suffer torture or pain; The altering of complexions, and fatness and leanness; The altering of statures; The altering of features; The increasing and exalting of the intellectual parts; Versions of bodies into other bodies; Making of new species; Transplanting of one species into another; Instruments of destruction, as of war and poison; Exhilaration of the spirits, and putting them in good disposition; Force of the imagination, either upon another body, or upon the body itself; Acceleration of time in maturations; Acceleration of time in clarifications; Acceleration of putrefaction; Acceleration of decoction; Acceleration of germination; Making rich composts for the earth; Impressions of the air, and raising of tempests; Great alteration; as in induration, emollition, &c; Turning crude and watery substances into oily and unctuous substances; Drawing of new foods out of substances not now in use; Making new threads for apparel ; and new stuffs, such as paper, glass, &c; Natural divinations; Deceptions of the senses; Greater pleasures of the senses; Artificial minerals and cements.

Francis Bacon
(1561–1626)

Magnalia Naturae, in the New Atlantis (1627), '*Wonders of nature, in particular with respect to human use*'

Magnalia Naturae, in the New Atlantis (1627),
'*Wonders of nature, in particular with respect to human use*'

The prolongation of life; The restitution of youth in some degree; The retardation of age; The curing of diseases counted incurable; The mitigation of pain;
[…]
Drawing of new foods out of substances not now in use; Making new threads for apparel; and new stuffs, such as paper, glass, &c; Natural divinations; Deceptions of the senses; Greater pleasures of the senses; Artificial minerals and cements.

We were nourished (and professionally trained) with the principles of the Cartesian dream.

This has deep governance implications due to the centrality of science in the formulation & adjudication of policy.

THE RIGHTFUL PLACE OF SCIENCE:

SCIENCE ON THE VERGE

"Wow. This penetrating, frightening, provocative and irrefutable view of the debasing of science cuts to—and through—the bone. Every producer, consumer and believer of 'science' should read this book, whether interested in pesticides, GMOs, nuclear power, climate change, psychology or fiscal policy."

Professor Philip B. Stark, Associate Dean, Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, University of California Berkeley

"An uncomfortable but vital diagnosis of the trouble with science. It describes valuable efforts by scientists to heal themselves, including movements for open access and social responsibility, but is clear about the limits of these endeavours. This book is certainly critical, but it is resolutely constructive."

Professor Jack Stilgoe, Senior Lecturer, Department of Science and Technology Studies, University College London

END

Twitter:
@andreasaltelli