

**Science on the Verge symposium at Copernicus Institute, Utrecht,
Ruppertbuilding room 134,
25 February 2016, h16.15-18.00**

Introducing the new book: Benessia, A., Funtowicz, S., Giampietro, M., Guimarães Pereira, A., Ravetz, J., Saltelli, A., Strand, R., van der Sluijs, J. (eds.), 2015, *Science on the verge*, Published by The Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes at Arizona State University [1].

By Andrea Saltelli,

A crisis looms over the scientific enterprise. Not a day passes without news of retractions, failed replications, fraudulent peer reviews, or misinformed science-based policies. The social implications are enormous, yet this crisis has remained largely uncharted—until now.

These dysfunctions have not been without consequences for science for policy, impacting important aspects of our daily life, from nutrition to medical research, from the adoption of new technologies to economic policy.

What is unique to this period is that the media themselves jump into the fray and bring these perils to the attention of the general public. Trust in science is likely to be affected, and this generates a completely new situation given the central role of science in ensuring legitimacy of our governments.

Ethical, epistemological, methodological and even metaphysical dimensions of the crisis are identified in this volume. Some modest elements of possible solutions are also put forward, especially in relation to what needs to be unlearned in order to begin the process of reconstruction, and which craft skills need to be relearned, sustained or enhanced.

[1] <http://www.andreasaltelli.eu/science-on-the-verge>