



Regulatory capture, precaution, participation, circumspection

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Based on:





Futures

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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



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C o a u t h o r s

The paradox of citizens participation

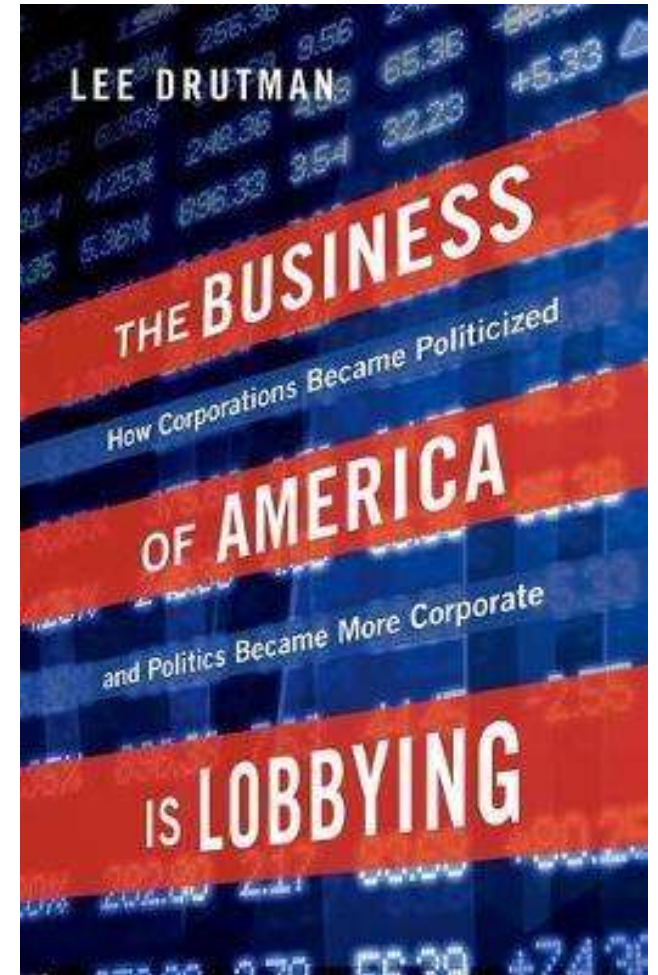
- In the age of post-truth even participation can be ‘gamed’
- In the presence of strong power/knowledge asymmetries citizens’ participation would need institutional support



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… rebalancing the knowledge asymmetry could take the form of an office for Public Lobbying, offered to citizens on the same rationale whereby indigent defendants are provided with legal counsel by the courts



Lee Drutman

Sylvain Laurens

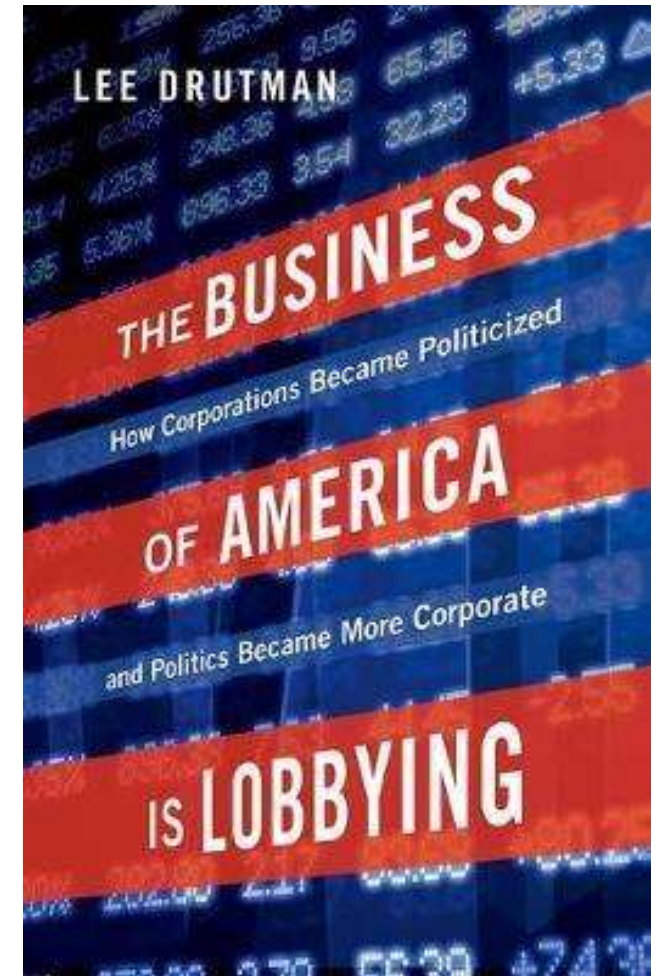


**LOBBYISTS AND
BUREAUCRATS IN BRUSSELS**
CAPITALISM'S BROKERS

Sylvain Laurens



Lee Drutman



The paradox of participation

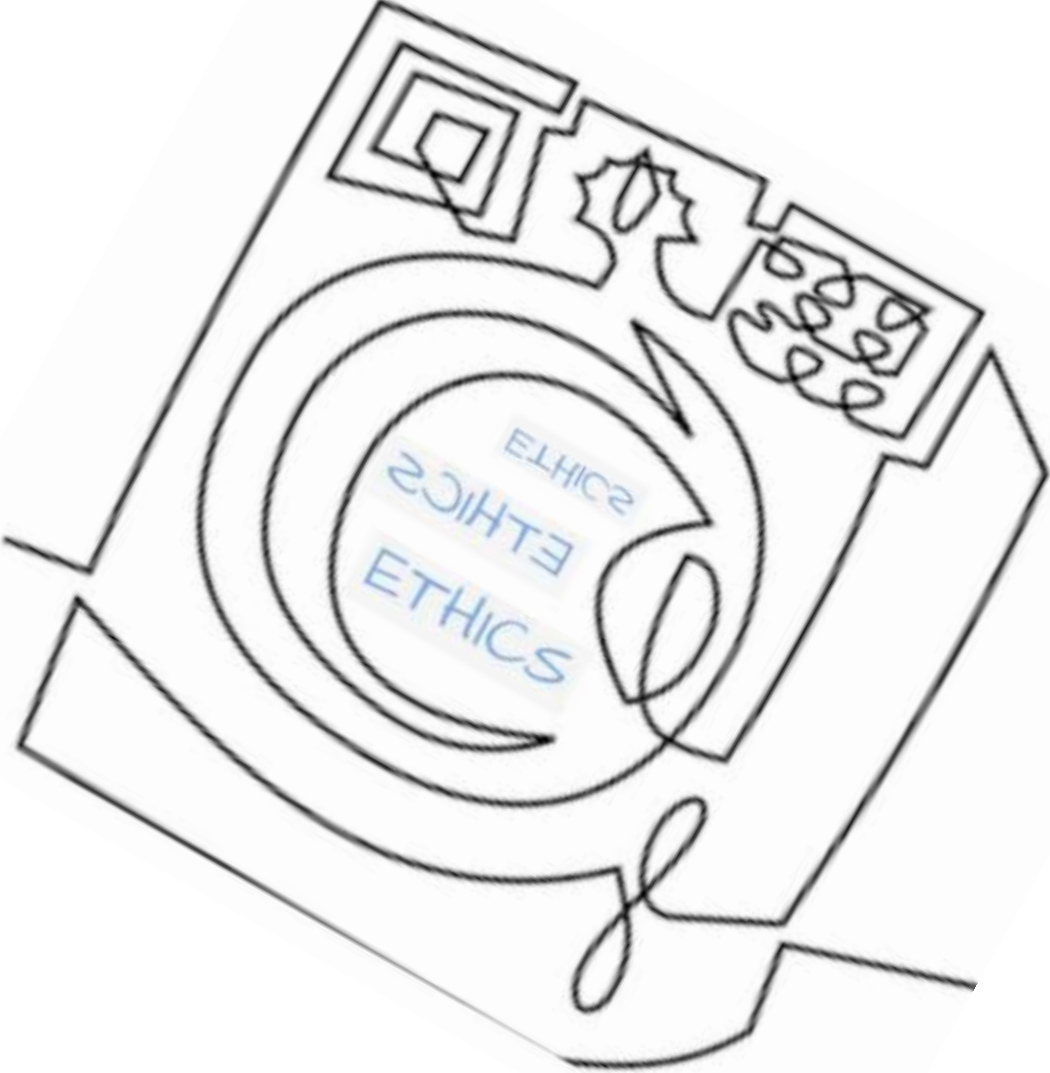
- Knowledge as the ‘currency of lobbies’ (S. Laurens)



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



Thomas Metzinger

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

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



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

“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”



Participatory
washing next?



DER TAGESSPIEGEL
HERUM CAUSAS
COGNOSCERE

The paradox of participation

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- Lobbyists perfect superior forms of astroturfing that involve posing as Guardians of Reason & involving well meaning citizens

New games from chemical, pharmaceutical, surgical, food, tobacco, and sugar companies

≡ The Intercept_



SEEDING DOUBT

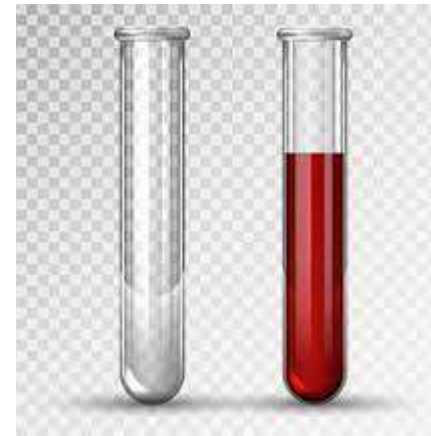
How Self-Appointed Guardians of “Sound Science” Tip the Scales Toward Industry

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

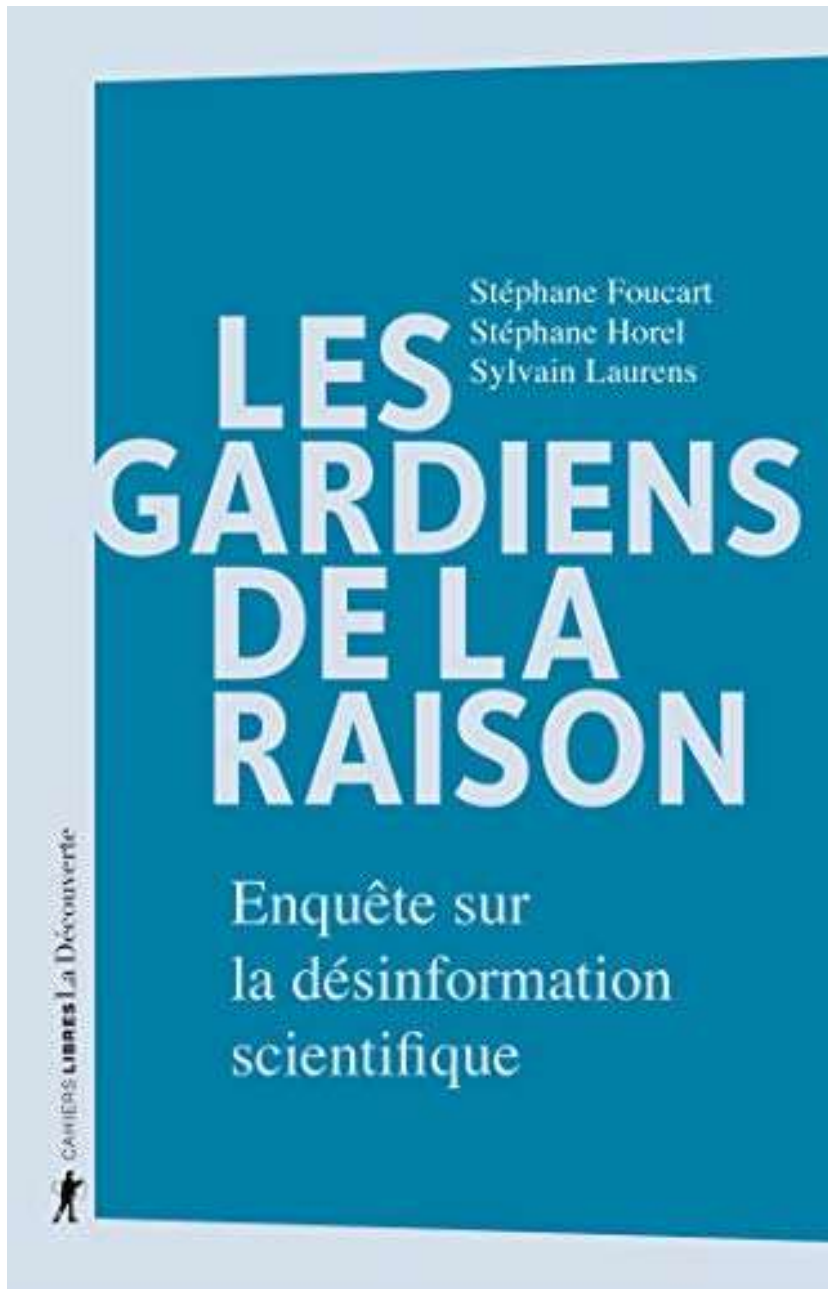
Guardians of reason



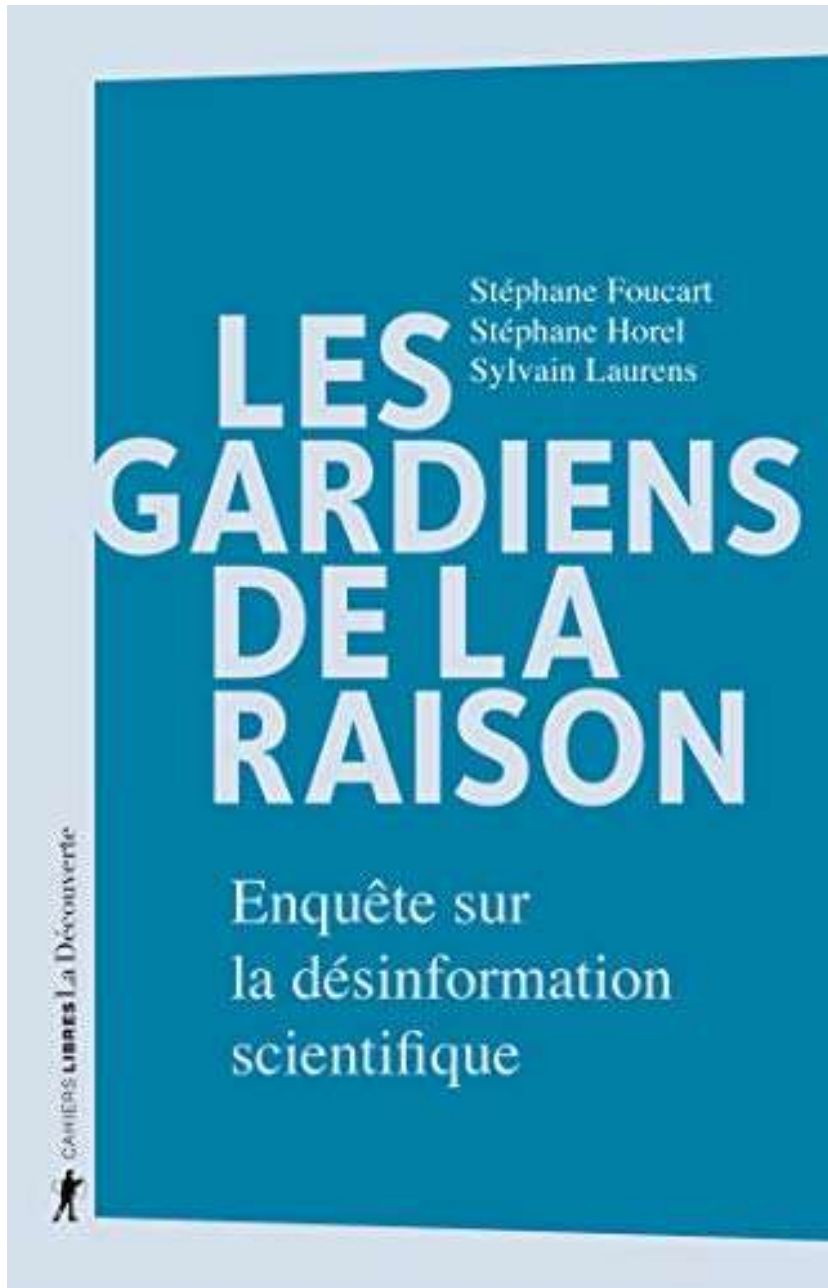
Guardians of sound science



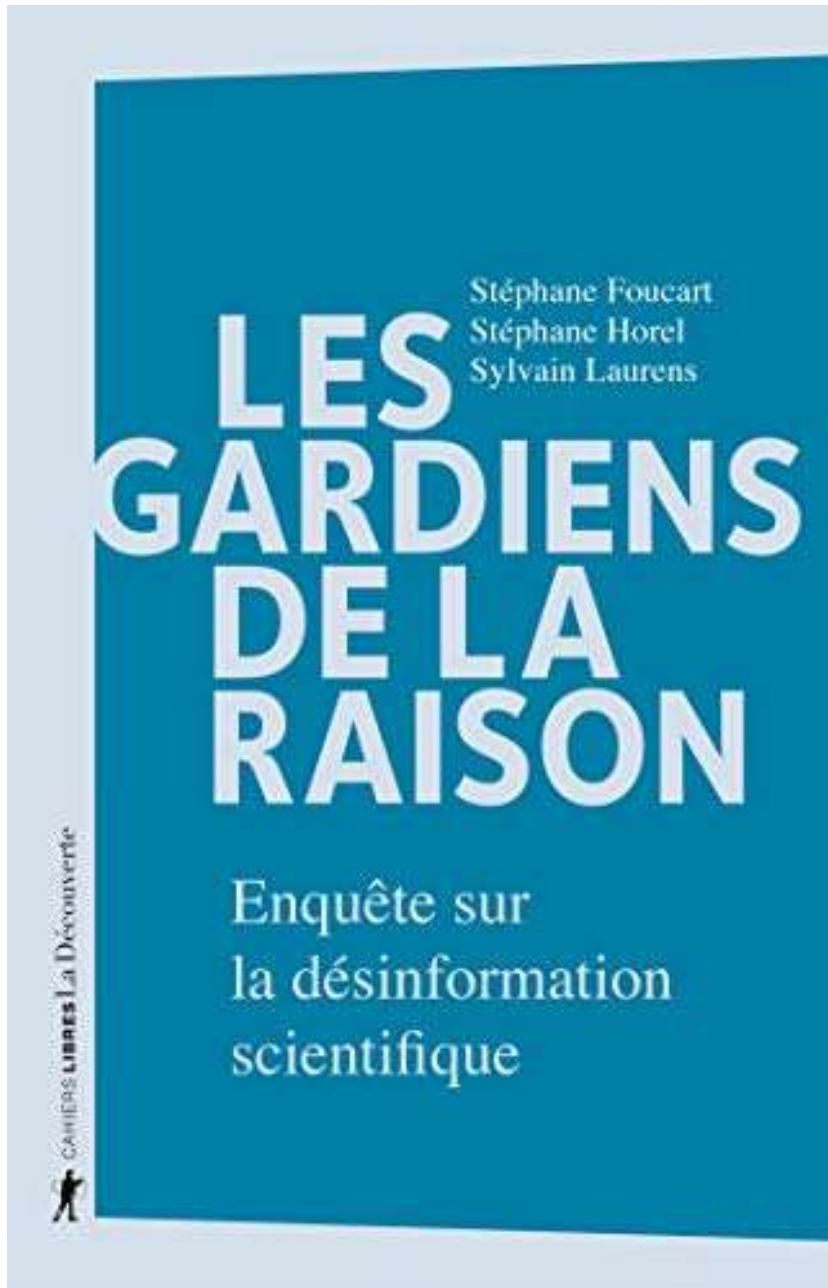
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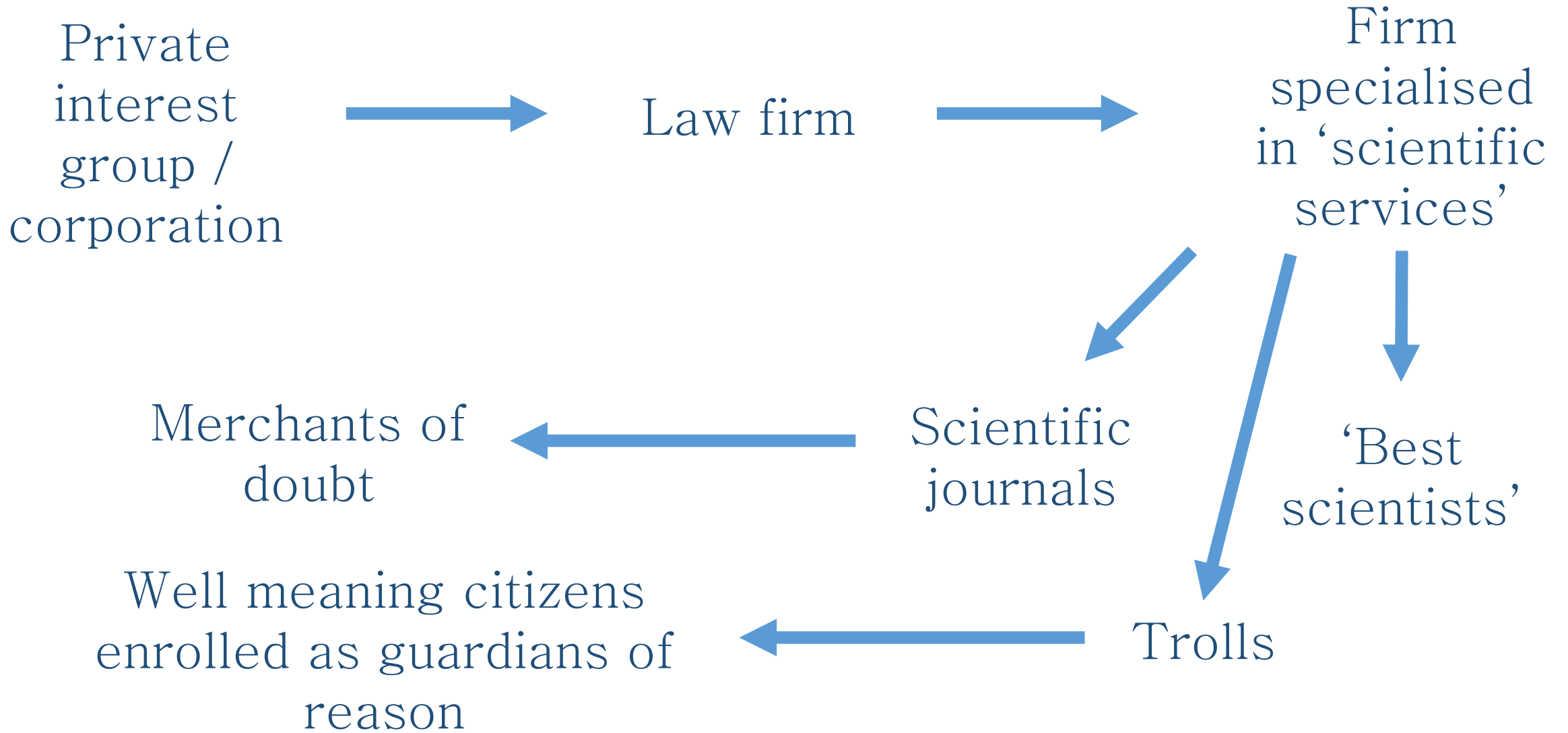
Well-meaning educators, scientific bloggers or micro-influencers, science associations are hijacked by corporate lobbyists to defend industrial positions on issues such as herbicides, genetically modified crops, nuclear energy, climate



A new frontier of lobbying,
where the new game consists
in colonizing the entire space of
scientific intermediation



An army of self-proclaimed ‘fact checkers’ becomes mobilized in the defence of a neoliberal and conservative credo, posing as victims of an assault on science perpetrated by the purported enemies of reason



An epistemic ladder for regulatory capture

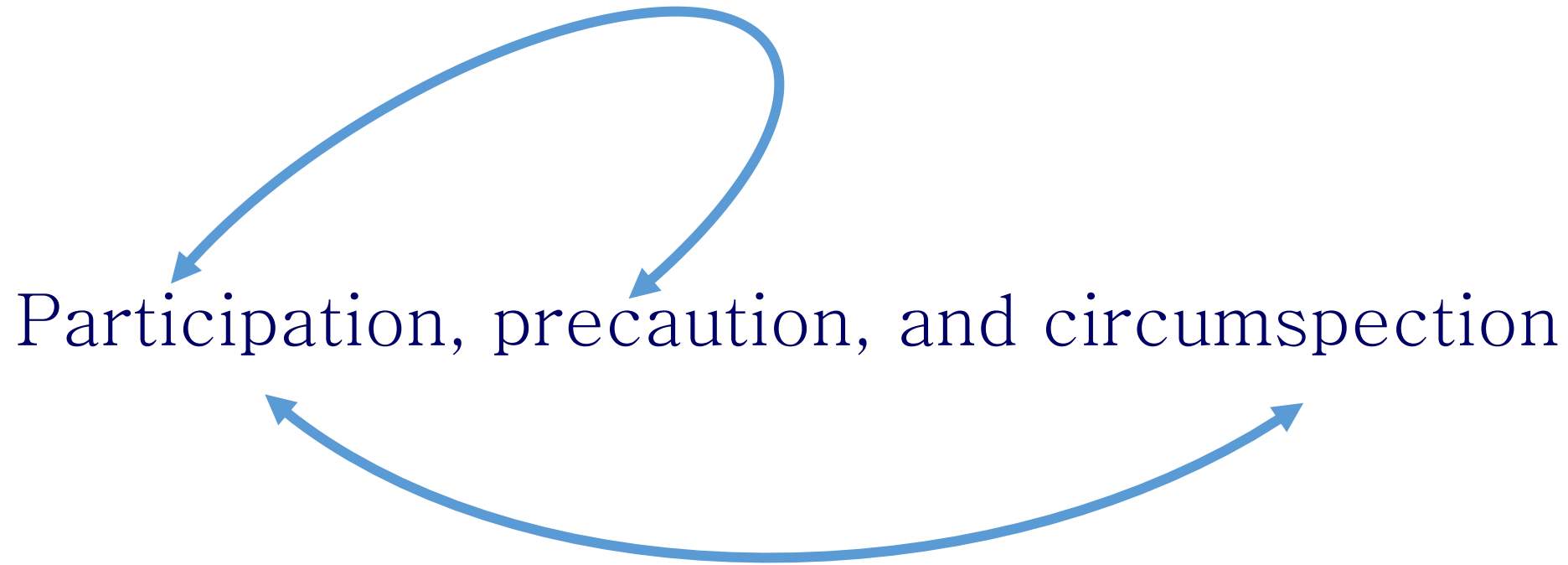
- **Epistemic.** Invalidating the inference or the methods
- **Institutional.** Delegitimising and/or ‘colonising’ institutions
- **Political.** Promoting a worldview where the very idea of regulation is undesirable

Science, the endless frontier of regulatory capture



So what?

Entangled

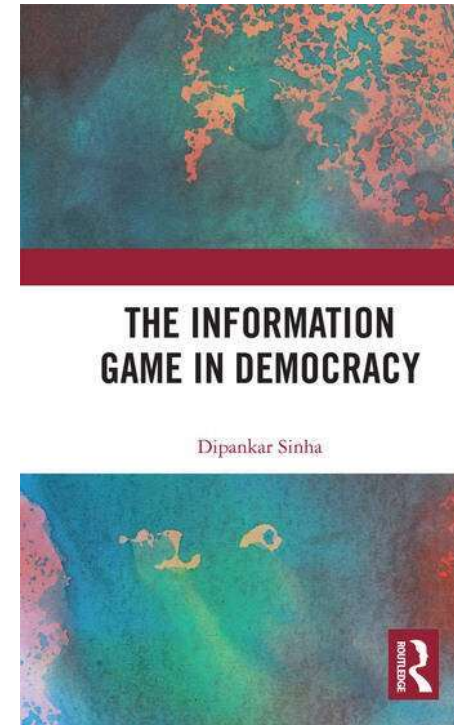


Post truth? Fake news? Fake news!



The meaning of the term has dissolved ...

The information game is becoming both more extensive and ever more in need of disguise, lest the legitimacy of democratic systems starts to collapse.



Couldry, N. (2021). Review Essay: Unravelling Democracy's Anti-Democratic Machine. *Journal of Digital Social Research*, 3(3), 137–147.

Competition between climatic and medical Armageddon's obscuring/energizing ongoing Armageddon's (authoritarian, geopolitical, financial...)



THE BAD GUYS ARE WINNING

By Anne Applebaum
Illustrations by Michael Houtz

The Atlantic

The End



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