

An overview of the problem of impediments to scientific integrity

PW Warren's opening gambit:

When conversing with those "true believers" (fundamentalists) who have "found it" (the "bestest" of all possible "whatevers") I prefer Robert Anton Wilson's (RAW) phrase "Sombunall" ('Some but not all', as defined by Robert Anton Wilson in his book *Quantum Psychology*) to "all blah blah blah" assertions. The EPrime movement (curtailing or eliminating the use of forms of "to be" and "is" in discourse, spoken or written) poses a great challenge for me since I grew up using "X is..." forms of speaking and thinking. The polymath RAW wrote his *Quantum Psychology* in Eprime. Amazing intellect! See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E_Prime See also the "Maybe Logic Academy" founded by RAW at <http://www.maybelogic.org/academy.htm>

A word about CSICOPS. It's time to awaken from single vision and CSICOP's sleep (apologies to William Blake) and bring the *Weltansicht* of mainstream psychology, biology and medicine into the 20th if not the 21st century! CSICOP = Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims Of the Paranormal which see themselves as the defenders of the faith. Robert Anton Wilson author of (1986/1991), *The New Inquisition: Irrational Rationalism and the Citadel of Science*, says the acronym should stand for Committee for Slander, Invective, and Calumny against Open-minded People. Indeed, they function as the religion of Scientism's version of the Catholic Church's "Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith" whose function is to silence dissenters and keep us all "with pure thoughts." See this discussion of "Pseudo" or "Pathological" skeptics:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pseudoskepticism>

ROBERT ANTON WILSON [RAW] Interview: 1988

This is an edited transcript of an interview which took place in Los Angeles on April 23, 1988. I [David] would like to thank Bob Wilson and his wonderful wife Arlen for inviting me into their home, and special thanks to Bruce Eisner for helping to arrange it. The interview was broadcast on college radio station KFJC, 89.7 FM in Los Altos Hills, California five weeks later. --David A. Banton [DAB] Available at http://www.nii.net/~obie/1988_interview.htm

At about 2/3rds of the way through the interview this interchange occurred:

DAB: One of your recent books (1986/1991) is *The New Inquisition: Irrational Rationalism and the Citadel of Science*. Maybe you could tell us a little bit about this book.

RAW: I coined the term "irrational rationalism" because those people claim to be rationalists, but they're governed by such a heavy body of taboos. They're so fearful, and so hostile, and so narrow, and frightened, and uptight and dogmatic. I thought it was a fascinating paradox: irrational rationalists. Later on I found out I didn't invent that. Somebody else who wrote an article on CSICOP, that's the group they all belong to: Committee for Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

Somebody else who wrote about them also used the term irrational rationalism. It's a hard term to resist when you think about those people.

I wrote this book because I got tired satirizing fundamentalist Christianity, I had done enough of that in my other books. I decided to satirize fundamentalist materialism for a change, because the two are equally comical. All fundamentalism is comical, unless you believe in it, in which case you'd become a fanatic yourself, and want everybody else to share your fundamentalism. But if you're not a fundamentalist yourself, fundamentalists are the funniest people on the planet. The **materialist fundamentalists** are funnier than the Christian fundamentalists, because they think they're rational!

DAB: They call themselves skeptical.

RAW: Yes, but they're not skeptical! They're never skeptical about anything except the things they have a prejudice against. None of them ever says anything skeptical about the AMA, or about anything in establishment science or any entrenched dogma. **They're only skeptical about new ideas that frighten them. They're actually dogmatically committed to what they were taught when they were in college, which was about 1948-53, somewhere in that period.** If you go back and study what was being taught in college in those days as the latest scientific theories, you find out that's what these people still believe. They haven't had a new idea in 30 years, that's all that happened to them. They just rigidified, they crystallized around 1960.[Basically they follow the "herd" as discussed in Gold, Thomas (1989) "New Ideas in Science," *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, v.3#2, pp. 103-112. PW Warren]

DAB: The Amazing Randi recently "debunked" Uri Geller, the guy who bends metal. What do you think about the Amazing Randi in particular? I understand that he has investigated some of these faith healers, he's debunked some of that. So some of the work that he's done seems to be rational. What would be an example of something irrational that he's done?

RAW: Well, his whole critique of the research of Putoff and Targ, at Stanford Research Institute. Randi was not there, he was not on the scene, and yet he claims to know what was going on there better than the two scientists who were supervising it. This implies 100% accurate telepathy. He was in New Jersey at the time of the experiments. The only way he could know better than the scientists running the project what was going on in their laboratory is if he had 100% accurate telepathy. Now he's offering a \$100,000 reward to anybody with 100% accurate telepathy; he should give all the money to himself! How else could he know? If he wasn't there, he can't know, he's only guessing, and to the extend that he thinks he knows, and doesn't realize he's guessing, that's what I mean by irrational rationalism. He's lost all track of reality. He doesn't know when he's guessing anymore. [see "The Myth of the Million Dollar Psychic Challenge," Source: DailyGrail.com <http://www.dailygrail.com/features/the-myth-of-james-randis-million-dollar-challenge>]

I've heard him make charges against scientists that remind me of Joe McCarthy. The only excuse for such things is that such a person doesn't realize he's guessing anymore, he thinks any suspicion that crosses his mind must be true. And that's the only way you can forgive them, because every ethical system has some equivalent to the Bible injunction against bearing false witness against your neighbor. Anybody who goes around charging so many people with being frauds and criminals and whatnot, the only way to forgive them is that they don't understand the seriousness of what they're doing. And they believe they are infallible. If he had any sense of fallibility, he couldn't do such things.

*****end of interview segment

Science has become corrupted upon becoming a profession dependent on grants from governments and corporations. Now, many people have the hallucinatory image of scientists and academicians as noble and courageous knights bravely riding white steeds of reason and wielding the weapons of methodology and self correction to cut down superstition, error, fear and suppression so that beautiful truth may shine forth to enlighten us. Should the reader have this image he need only contact the following web sites and become enlightened on the practices (as opposed to the ideals) of science:

Closed Minded Science: "Unbridled gullibility can destroy science, but unbridled disbelief is no less a threat because it brings both a tolerance for bias and ridicule as well as the suppression of untested new ideas. Better to take a middle road between total closed-mindedness and total gullibility. Practice pragmatism, pursue humility, and maintain a clear, honest, and continuing view of ourselves and the less noble of our **own** behaviors." <http://amasci.com/weird/wclose.html>

Suppression, Censorship and Dogmatism in Science: "This site is intended to serve a threefold purpose - to educate the public on the widespread phenomenon of suppression, censorship and unscientific dogmatism in modern science, to expose the methods and tactics of those behind it, especially the organized "skeptics", and to promote a healthy skepticism towards the alleged certainties provided by modern science." <http://www.suppressedscience.net>

The Institute of Science in Society: <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/index.php> is a very credible and scientific UK organization which provides a watchdog function on the current corruption of science by business and multinational corporations. It questions much of mainstream biomedical research. See the series of papers titled *The Science Wars*.

Dr Rath's organization is a not for profit health action group. Read how he is taking on the chemical/pharmaceutical/medical cartel. Statements from the web site: <http://www4.dr-rath-foundation.org> This website contains one of the *largest resources for natural health information in the world* and the Dr Rath Health Foundation will continue to focus upon the development and implementation of natural health systems -- for everyone, everywhere.

The people of the world face one of the largest challenges in human history. The right to health and life for billions of people is being threatened by the financial interests of the largest investment industry on earth – the multi-trillion dollar pharmaceutical industry. The marketplaces of this industry are diseases and its future growth is dependent on the further expansion of the disease market. Millions of people, entire countries are deciding that they no longer wish to live in the dependency of the pharmaceutical cartel. Developing countries and industrialized nations alike are beginning to restructure their health care systems focusing on preventive, effective, safe and affordable natural health. Two out of three diseases in the industrialized world as well as in the developing countries could largely be gone – if not for the pharmaceutical investment “business with disease.”

Dr. Joseph Mercola's newsletter provides a wealth of information about alternatives to mainstream medicine with critiques and documentation of various corrupt practices: <http://www.mercola.com>

Mike Adams, "The Health Ranger" publishes an excellent online source "Natural News Insider Alert" also with critiques and documentation of various corrupt practices (<http://www.NaturalNews.com>)

A semi popular magazine *Nexus New Times* provides information covering the fields of: Health Alternatives; Suppressed Science; Earth's Ancient Past; UFOs & the Unexplained; and Government Cover-Ups: <http://www.nexusmagazine.com>

The Society for Scientific Exploration and its journal publish well researched and peer reviewed articles on topics forbidden in the mainstream journals. <http://www.scientificexploration.org/>

In the area of physics (mainly) see the *Journal of Theoretics* for "forbidden thought" made known to us who indulge in "wrong think." <http://www.journaloftheoretics.com>

I'd like to recommend the following web site to all of you who are interested in the struggle between mainstream science and frontier science, especially in the area of health. This site is keeping tabs of the so called "quack watch" bunch: <http://www.quackpotwatch.org/>.

As for men of science "standing upright" in a ethical/moral sense, I have great concern over the corruption of science and scientists by corporations and governments, as well as the members of the "scientific herd." I've given up on most other human endeavours but I still see the practice of science as a sacred (almost) trust and thus become very upset when it proves otherwise. I guess I was a naive innocent about this!!

Some resources (there are others):

Angell, M. (2004) *The truth about the drug companies: How they deceive us and what to do about it*, Random House

Burr, C. (2002) *The emperor of scent: A story of perfume, obsession, and the last mystery of the senses*, Random House (especially "Author's note" pp. 227-239 which is an excellent case study of how scientists really operate when their favorite theory is disproven by evidence from a maverick genius who's not part of the inner sanctum)

Chopra, S. (2009) *Corrupt to the Core: Memoirs of a Health Canada whistleblower*, KOS Publishing. <http://shivchopra.com/>

Greenberg, D.S. (2001) *Science, money and politics: Political triumph and ethical erosion*, U of Chicago press

Haley, D. (2000) *Politics in healing: The suppression and manipulation of American medicine*, Potomac Valley press

Kassirer, J.P. (2004) *On the take: How medicine's complicity with big business can endanger your health*, Oxford U Press

Krimsly, S. (2003) *Science in the private interest: Has the lure of profits corrupted biomedical research?* Rowman and Littlefield

Kravit, S. B. and N. Wincour (2004) *The rebirth of cold fusion: Real science, real hope, real energy*, Pacific Oaks press

SIGH!