



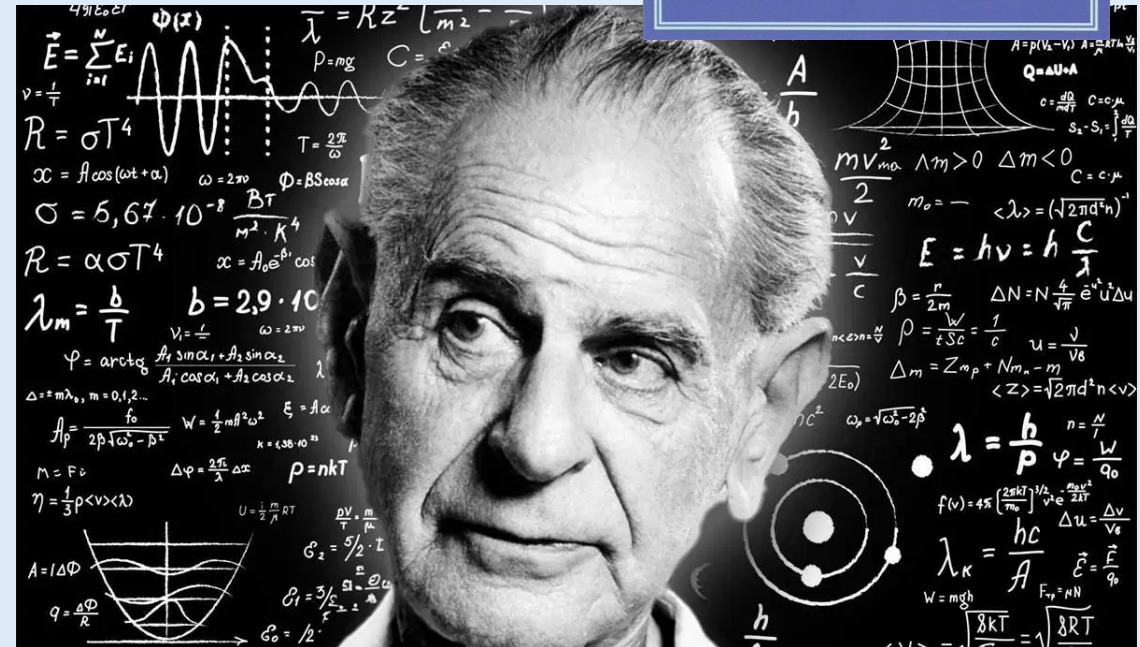
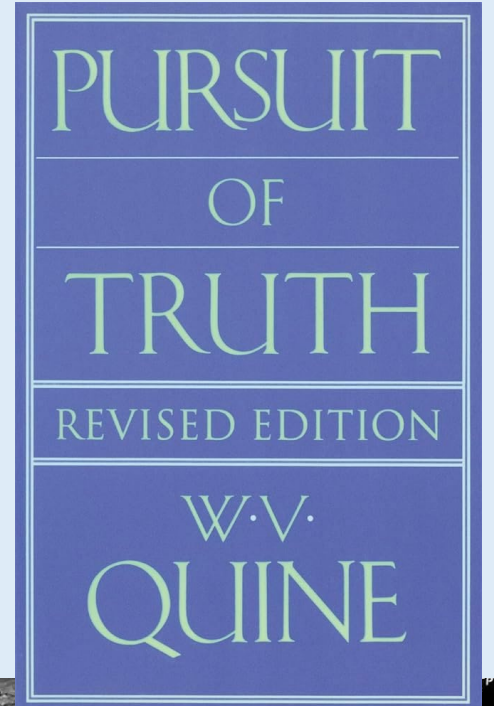
he who pays the piper calls  
the tune – on 'purpose' and  
research culture

NRIN October 2024

Prof. dr. mr. Jonathan Soeharno

# 'Classic' view on scientific purpose

- σώζειν τὰ φαινόμενα
- academic freedom to pursue the interests of science only
- *pursuit* of truth
- falsification (as scientific *progress*)
- etc



# VSNU Code(s) 2004-2014

purpose of science = science



## Honesty and scrupulousness

- "Scientific and scholarly activities (...) **should remain unaffected by the pressure to achieve**"
- "Communication regarding research results should be **dispassionate and realistic**"
- "(...) the **ultimate aim of science** is to establish facts"

## Independence

- "Assignments carried out with **third-party funding demonstrably contribute to** academic teaching and/or research"

## Impartiality

- "In their scientific or scholarly activities, academic practitioners are **led by no other interest than academic interest**"
- "Academic practitioners are impartial and objective when they **do not let personal interest, preference, affections, prejudice or the interests of the commissioning or funding body affect their judgement** and decisions"
- "The **choice of methods and criteria** is made **solely** to establish facts, and is not led by external goals such as commercial success or political influence"

# versus NGWI 2018 and KNAW 2021

## science serves (higher) purpose



### Independence

- Independence is required at all times in the design, conduct and reporting of research, **although not necessarily in the choice of research topic and research question.**

### Responsibility

- Responsibility means, among other things, acknowledging the fact that a researcher does not operate in isolation and **hence taking into consideration** – within reasonable limits – **the legitimate interests of human and animal test subjects, as well as those of commissioning parties, funding bodies and the environment.**
- "Responsibility also means conducting research that is scientifically **and/or societally relevant**"



"One of the professional standards that may **limit and direct** academic freedom in practice is the **responsibility for people, society and the environment.**"

"The Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity states that scientists, in their role of researchers, should take reasonable account of the interests of those involved in their research and those of their environment."

"This principle also **implies that researchers should practice science that is scientifically and/or socially relevant.** Against this background, scientists should always seek a **proper balance between academic freedom and independence on the one hand and social responsibility on the other.**"

Not about dual use, law-breaking, discrimination etc



*Joseph. Sestini Pinxit*

*Giuseppe. Sestini del.*

*Joseph. Moryhan Sculp.  
Sub. V. Spazio Livorno et. Florent. Roma*

DELLA SCODILLA

# From integrity to ethics I

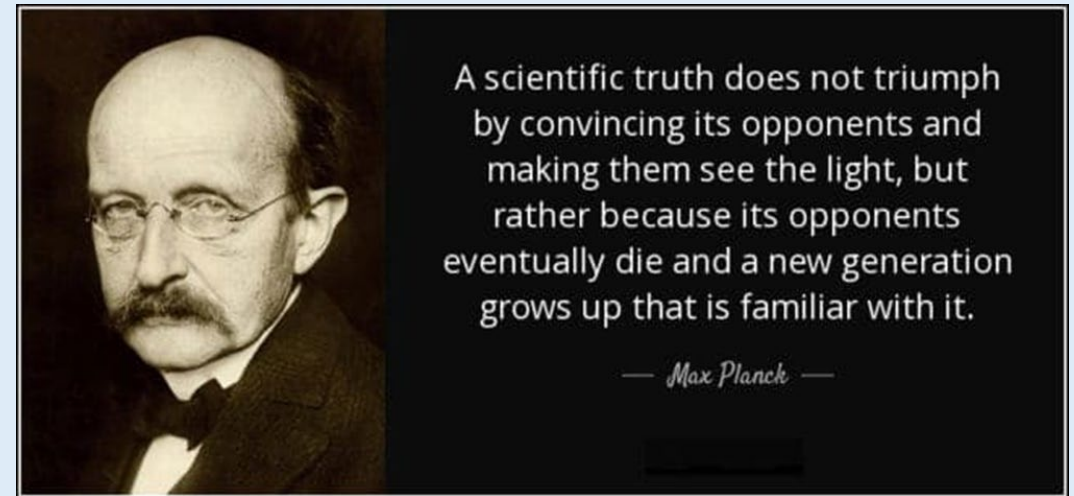
science must serve social change or have 'societal impact'

## Cape Town Statement 2022 – Conference theme “Fostering Research Integrity in an unequal world”

- (...) unfair and inequitable research practices remain prevalent **at all stages of research** from proposal development to funding application, data collection, analysis, sharing and access, reporting and translation.
- (...) can impact the integrity of research in many ways, including skewing research priorities and agendas with research questions that are irrelevant for local needs, power imbalances that undermine fair recognition of knowledge contributions within collaborations, including unfair acknowledgement of contributions to published work, lack of diversity and inclusivity in collaborations, and unfair data management practices that disadvantage researchers in low resource environments.

## Diversity and Inclusivity as a pathway to fair practice and attribution

- Journals and publishers should question the practice of excluding local researchers from low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs) from authorship when data are from LMICs **and have a low threshold for rejecting such papers.**



# From integrity to ethics II

science must serve social change or have 'societal impact'

## ALLEA 2023 The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity REVISED EDITION 2023

- The European Code of Conduct describes professional, legal, **societal, ethical, and moral responsibilities** of the different actors in different settings, including those who define and implement the priorities and criteria for research funding, assessment, and publication.
- An effective European Code of Conduct for the research community promotes an **ethical** mindset.

### Accountability

- (...) for the research from idea to publication, for its management and organisation, for training, supervision, and mentoring, and **for its wider societal impacts**

### 2.1 Research Environment

- Research institutions and organisations create an environment of mutual respect and promote values such as **equity, diversity, and inclusion**.

- Researchers across the entire career path, from junior to the most senior level, undertake training in **ethics** and research integrity
- Research protocols **take account of, and are sensitive to**, relevant differences among research participants, such as age, gender, sex, culture, **religion, worldview**, ethnicity, geographical location, and social class.

### 2.8 Reviewing and Assessment

- Researchers, research institutions, and organisations adopt **assessment practices** that are based on principles of quality, knowledge advancement, and impact that go beyond quantitative indicators and take into account diversity, inclusiveness, openness, and collaboration where relevant

# Tensions

if science serves social change or a moral purpose

- What social change?
- Whose ethics?
- Whose morality?
- Science as 'ancilla'?
- Implications for funding, promotions, appointments?
- What is 'misconduct' (social safety?)

## The Harvard Crimson

Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences Will No Longer Require Diversity Statements



Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences will stop requiring a diversity, inclusion, and belonging statement in faculty hiring processes. By Frank S. Zhou

By Tilly R. Robinson and Neil H. Shah, Crimson Staff Writers  
June 4, 2024

**FOLIA** nieuws opinie wetenschap dossier video podcast zoeken English

international

### The unbearable lightness of UvA's neutrality

A Guest-editor, 13 februari 2024 - 17:09

Betreft Israel-Hamas War UvA Faculty of Social & Behavioural Sciences Faculty of Economics & Business

Deel op

When Russia invaded Ukraine, UvA's Executive Board did not hesitate to take an unambiguous stance, but in Israel's war against Palestine the Board actually wants to remain neutral, while Israel commits genocide in Gaza, argues a group of 24 UvA-scholars. "By not doing the same for Gaza, UvA opens itself to accusations of double standards."



THE DAILY  
**PRINCETONIAN**

NEWS

## Princeton will resume fossil fuel research funding, stop disclosure from dissociated companies