

Project Group (Number and Name): group 68 – The mission(s) of science. How can (do!) researchers contribute to development of society

## Comment

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# Comment: The Problems of Science Communication

## How Can (Do!) Researchers Contribute to the Development of Society?!

Science. It is one of the most important components of our society. Through it, we gain new knowledge and continue to educate ourselves. This results in the so-called knowledge society, in which knowledge is an important resource. And although science cannot provide universal results, it teaches us to question certain aspects and encourages us to rethink. However, in this day and age, when research and questioning would be more important than ever, science seems to have isolated itself from society. But where does this change come from?

There are three reasons in particular. Reason one: capitalism. Since research is dependent on the financial resources made available, these regulate the areas in which research can be carried out. Thus, sometimes important research cannot be done, which can lead to a lack of new research, knowledge, development, and discourse in certain areas. Research is mainly conducted in the areas that generate a high turnover, which means that science loses its role as a means of information. The focus here is no longer on the research itself, but much more on the money. The scientist Ethan Perlstein could be taken as an example of this. In the previous year, he wanted to set up a laboratory to study methamphetamines, which did not get funded by the politic. He is now hoping for success through crowdfunding.

Reason two: accessibility to science. Not only research itself, but also access to publications, is often only possible for the money. In addition, research results are difficult to find on the Internet, and there is a lack of a superordinate medium for searching for publications. Another problem in making knowledge available is the decline of participatory science, whose research practice should allow new impulses and, as a rule, facilitate the transfer of knowledge. All this prevents the multiplication of what has been researched and slows down the growth of knowledge in the population. As a result, society's knowledge becomes outdated and less current. This inhibits progress and development and reduces innovation.

Reason three: Comprehensibility of science. Since the majority of publications are written in technical language, it is often only possible for members of the scientific community, people with prior knowledge or a high level of education to understand them. This leads to the exclusivity of the research result and favors social inequality, resulting in negative effects on society.

From these three points, it can be concluded that the results of scientific research have little access to the population and hardly find their way into social discourse and have little presence. The acceptance of ambiguity decreases and with it the questioning and reconsideration of one's own opinion, which in the broadest sense leads to a weakening of the basic political order, democracy. Opinions become more extreme because new input is lacking and the hurdles to obtaining it are very high.