

Project Group (Number and Name): 69 – Mission of Science

Comment

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Comment: Contemporary science might be one of the most powerful instruments humanity has to offer to fight the threats our global society is facing like the Covid-19 pandemic or the ubiquitous dangers of climate change.

However there are many challenges scientists still have to overcome in order to ensure progress that is in the interest of as many communities as possible.

How can researchers and scientists support the development of our society?

Science gives humanity a sense of truth about our reality. It helps us to get a picture of our place in society and our planet's ecological system. The innovation of industry and economy is driven by science. Good research is essential in the fight for equal rights, sustainability, access to medical care and the fight against hunger in our communities and many more issues.

We call that the „Mission of Science“.

One of the most limiting factors of modern science is a lack of resources: the lack of funds coming from the government to support i.e. sustainability studies leads to scientist relying on private funding.

Private funding however, often stops at the point where the outcomes of research don't comply anymore with the interests of the funding party. It limits scientists in their freedom and resources. Moreover, private funding is often linked to a lack of transparency, gives institutions the opportunity to instrumentalization of results and data. This in turn may lead to misunderstanding of consensus in the scientific community. An issue already present as a result of the problem of induction.

The complex structures of human moral standards and ethics all around the world are making a scientist life equally more complicated.

Society is never resting in trying to find a consensual view on the limits of research. Two often discussed topics are the usage of animals for testing or the ethical issues with cloning. Both create a fear of misuse in society and a fear to not be able to control the effects of the progress made (animal factories/designer babies).

Accordingly, it is essential that while scientific progress is being made, the discourse on moral implications, values and visions for the future must keep pace. Only on those grounds our communities can decide which topics have priority to be researched, which studies should be funded and to what means we will pursue the targeted questions.

To conclude our society should be more involved in contemporary science to create new concepts and ideas to give researchers opportunity use their expertise to support our society's development.