

# The Politics, Perception, and Philosophy of Physics (F34PPP)

---



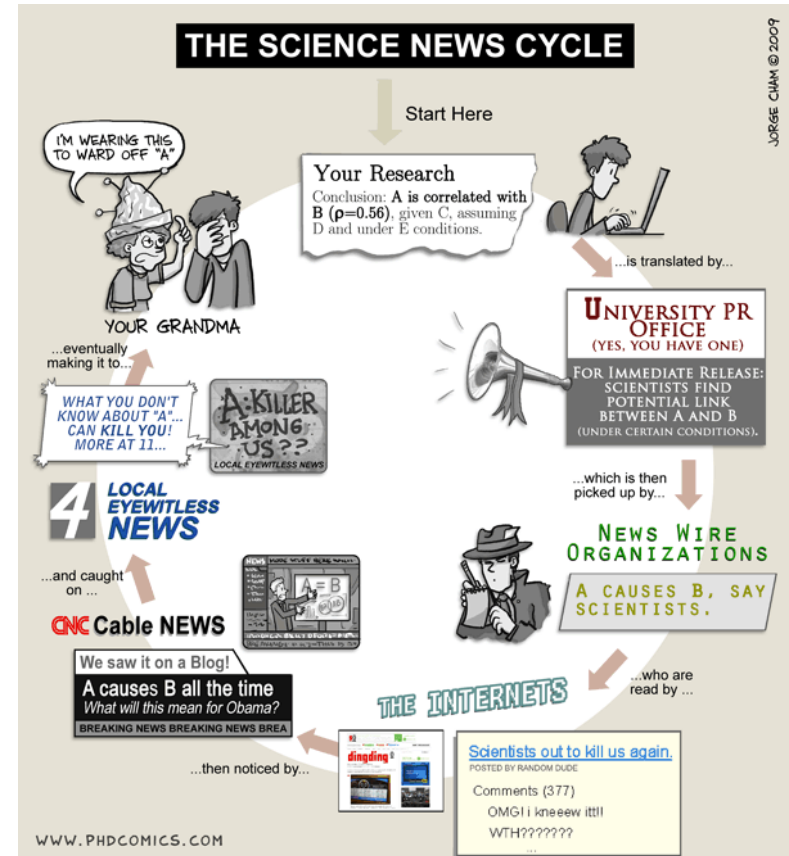
Science is the belief in the ignorance of experts.

(Richard Feynman)

[izquotes.com](http://izquotes.com)

# The Politics, Perception, and Philosophy of Physics (F34PPP)

- What is physics? How would you define science?
- Do advances in science proceed through paradigm shifts?
- Must a theory be falsifiable to be scientific?
- Are most scientific papers *really* wrong?
- Does peer review work?
- Can science and politics speak the same language?
- The Science Wars
- Communication breakdown.



Essay

## Why Most Published Research Findings Are False

John P. A. Ioannidis

# *THE POLITICS, PERCEPTION AND PHILOSOPHY OF PHYSICS (F34PPP)*

0: Overview

0:00 / 18:45



Analytics

Video Manager

## The Politics, Perception and Philosophy of Physics: 0 – Overview



Philip Moriarty

Channel settings

961 views

+ Add to   ↪ Share   ... More

👍 73   💬 3

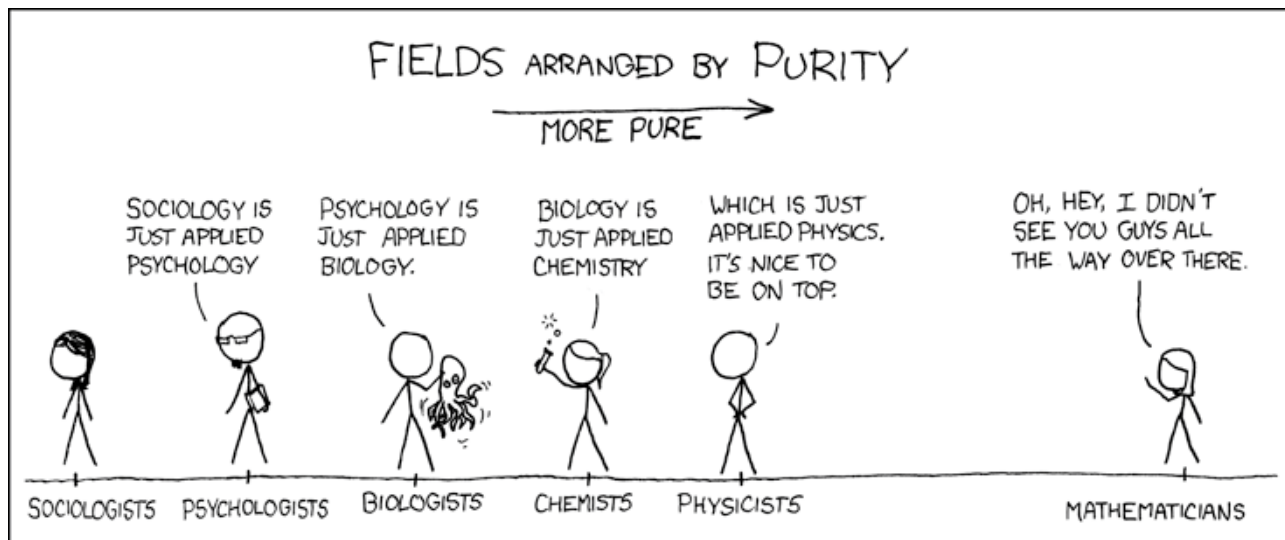
Published on Sep 25, 2016

An overview of the Politics, Perception and Philosophy of Physics (F34PPP) module which runs in the autumn semester (i.e. Oct - Dec) in the School of Physics & Astronomy, University of Nottingham.

[www.youtube.com/moriarty2112](http://www.youtube.com/moriarty2112)

# The Politics, Perception, and Philosophy of Physics (F34PPP)

- Mixture of lectures, seminars/ discussion groups, and “panels”  
(A113, CAPT, Mondays 09:00)
- Assessment via three coursework exercises
  - blog post (300 words),
  - a Physics World-type opinion piece (1000 words),
  - and a feature article (in the style of a broadsheet piece, 2K words)



# The Politics, Perception, and Philosophy of Physics (F34PPP)

---

From the sublime....

*“This sentence has five words. Here are five more words. Five-word sentences are fine. But several together are monotonous. Listen to what is happening. The writing is getting boring. The sound of it drones. It’s like a stuck record. The ear demands some variety.*

*Now listen. I vary the sentence length, and I create music. Music. The writing sings. It has a pleasant rhythm, a lilt, a harmony. I use short sentences. And I use sentences of medium length. And sometimes, when I am certain the reader is rested, I will engage him with a sentence of considerable length, a sentence that burns with energy and builds with all the impetus of a crescendo, the roll of the drums, the crash of the cymbals—sounds that say, listen to this, it is important.”*

Gary Provost (*100 Ways to Improve Your Writing*, 1985)

to the less than  
sublime....

Don’t think it’s easy to supervise some fifty graduate students. For one thing, one must read their papers. Listen to one of my best students begin his thesis: “This field of physics is so virginal that no human eyeball has ever set foot in it.”