

Sep 22

- 1. Administrative**
- 2. Functionalism and science**
- 3. Reading discussion**

Administrative

Discussion questions

Topic sign-up

- ∴ You can sign up for topics on Teams to reserve a spot for a particular topic ('General' channel, "Poster sign-up" tab)
- ∴ Topic submissions are due Oct 4

Student discussion questions

- ∴ You will receive an email within the next few days with your discussion question assignments
- ∴ You will need to do the readings for your assigned days *early*
- ∴ The earliest assignment will be due Oct 3

Discussion questions

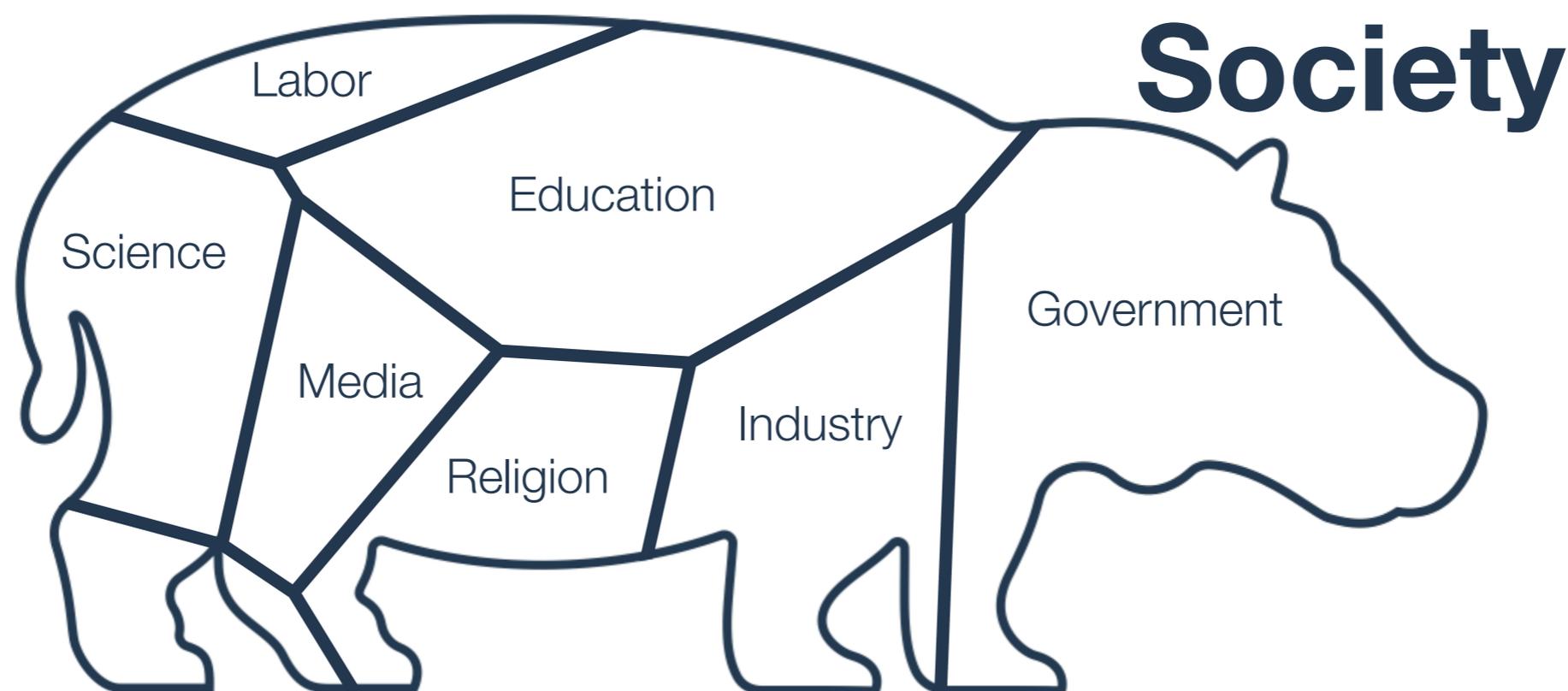
Discussion groups are now set

- ⋮ You should see your team name in the “Channels” list, where you can access chat, video, and shared files
- ⋮ Responses from today onward count toward your course grade
- ⋮ A few groups have only three members — contact me if you want to try to combine with another group of three
- ⋮ If you have particular concerns or issues, let me know as soon as possible

Functionalism and science

Structural functionalism

- ∴ *Structural functionalism* is a theoretical approach in sociology that views society as a system of interconnected and interdependent institutions.
- ∴ Often described with a *biological metaphor*: different organs and systems in a body all function to keep the whole organism working.



Structural functionalism

The function of *science*

Certified knowledge

- ∴ “The institutional goal of science is the extension of certified knowledge.”
(Merton 1978, p. 270)
- ∴ Science adds to society’s ever-growing body of knowledge.

Maintaining function

- ∴ Continued production of certified knowledge is enforced through an *ethos of science*.
- ∴ Set of *social norms*. Compliers are *rewarded*, and violators are *punished*.
- ∴ Normative *structure* is what makes science work, not scientists or methods.



Structural functionalism

Enforcing norms

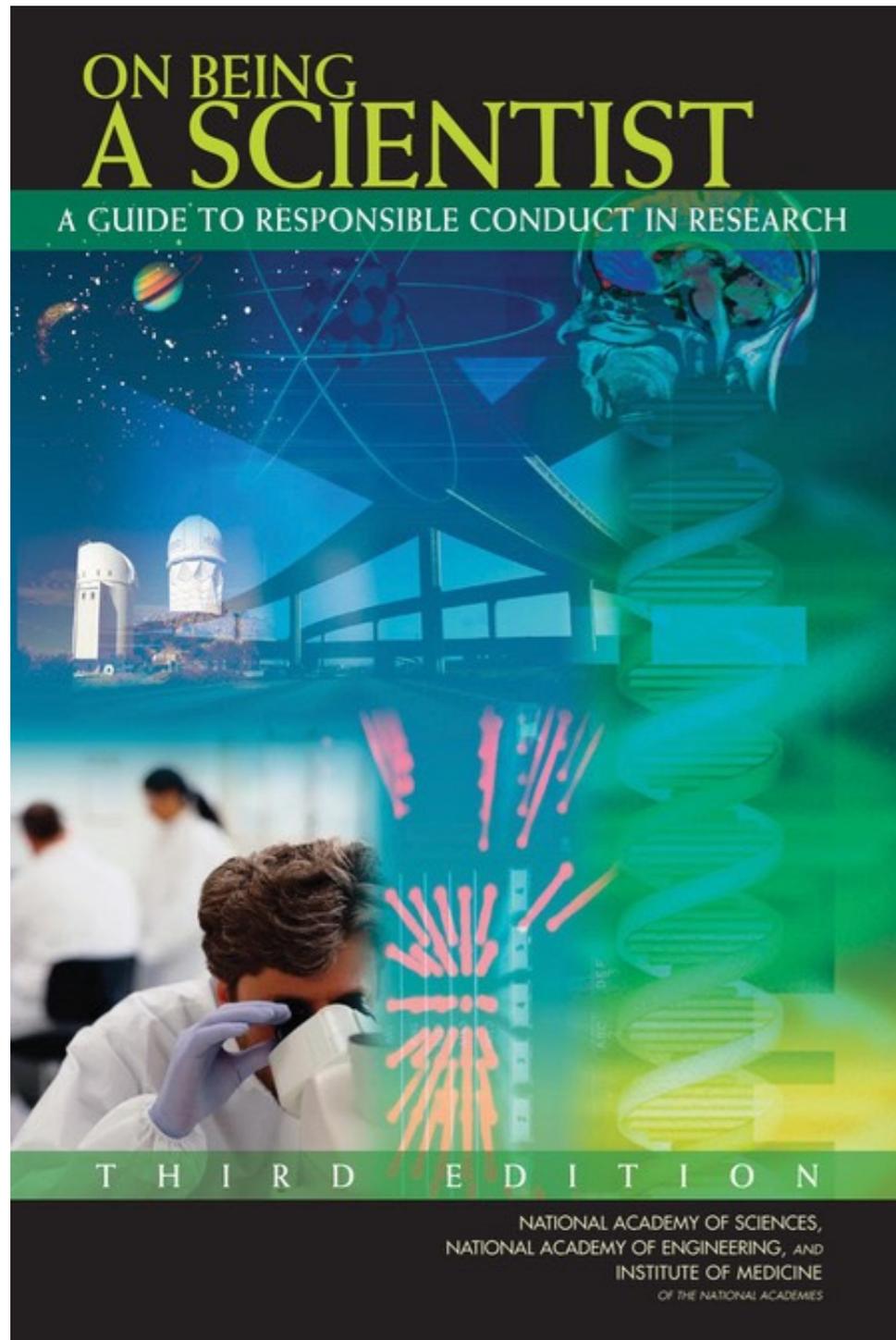
CUDOS (Merton 1978)

∴ **C**ommunism, **U**niversalism,
Disinterestedness, **O**rganized
Skepticism

Rewards & sanctions

∴ “Carrot and stick”

∴ Attempt to explain the force and durability of scientific norms.



National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine. 2009. *On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research: Third Edition*.

Normal science, paradigms, and scientific revolutions

Required reading:

- Kuhn (1970)
*Anomaly and the Emergence of
Scientific Discoveries and Crisis
and
the Emergence of Scientific Theories*

Discussion

Discussion

Group discussions:

- ∴ The remainder of the group discussions will be submitted in 9 'clusters'.
- ∴ *Most* discussions cover about two readings/days
- ∴ **Today's discussion is due by 5pm tomorrow**
- ∴ Responses are due on Thursday after the last discussion in the cluster
- ∴ Work directly on the document available in your group chat; there is no need to submit the document

Notes on responses:

- ∴ Try to respond to most of the prompts.
(2 per topic at a *minimum*)
- ∴ Avoid terse, bullet-point style.
- ∴ Refer directly to the text.