

Agenda

Theme 4:
*Science aligns
with power*

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

Notes

Topic sign-up

- ⋮ You can sign up for topics on Teams to reserve a spot for a particular topic
(‘General’ channel, “Final Project sign-up” tab)
- ⋮ Topic submissions are due Oct 5

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 *well before the due date*
- ⋮ The earliest assignment will be due Sept 28

No class on Thursday

- ⋮ *There is no class this coming Thursday, September 21*

Notes

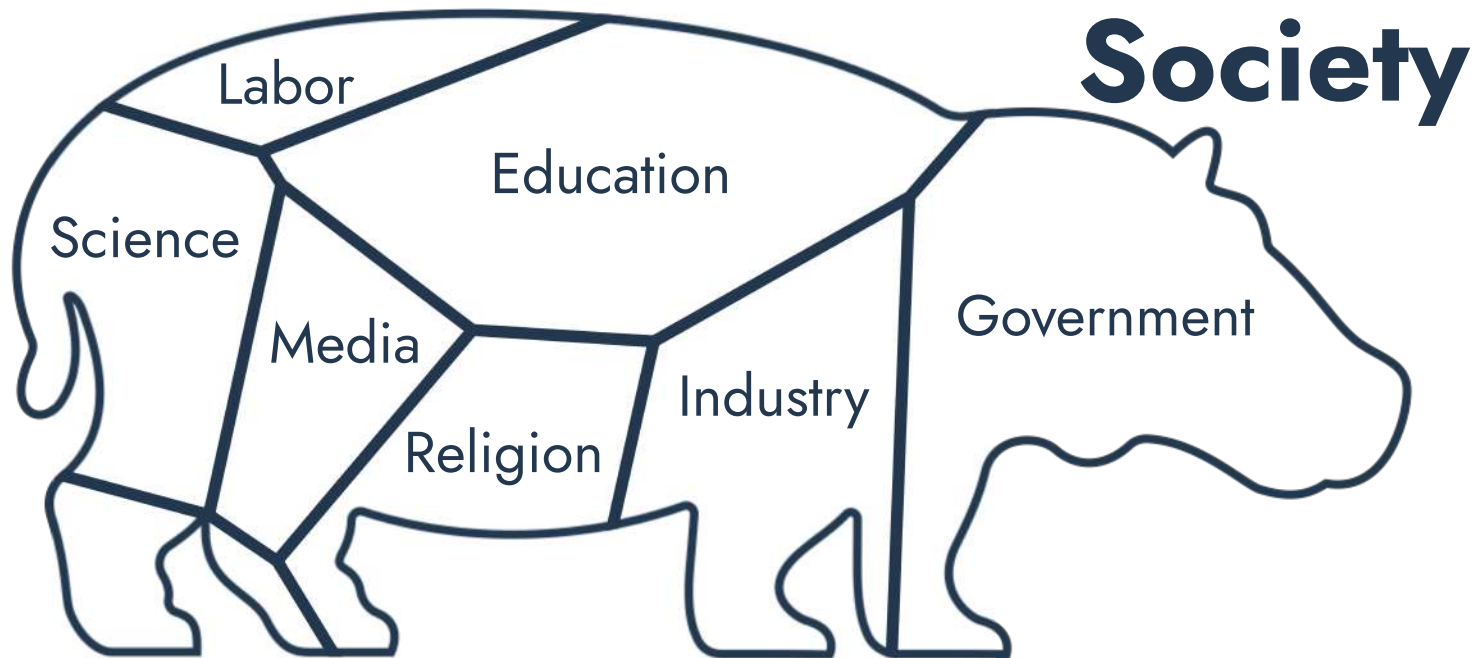
Discussion groups are now set

- ⋮ 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 students who did not sign up for a group were randomly assigned — if you are in a group that won't work for you let me know as soon as possible
- ⋮ If you have particular concerns or issues, let me know as soon as possible

Functionalism and science

Society through its *function*

- ∴ 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.



Certified knowledge

- ∴ “The institutional goal of science is the extension of certified knowledge.”

(Merton 1942, p. 270)

- ∴ Science adds to society’s ever-growing body of knowledge.

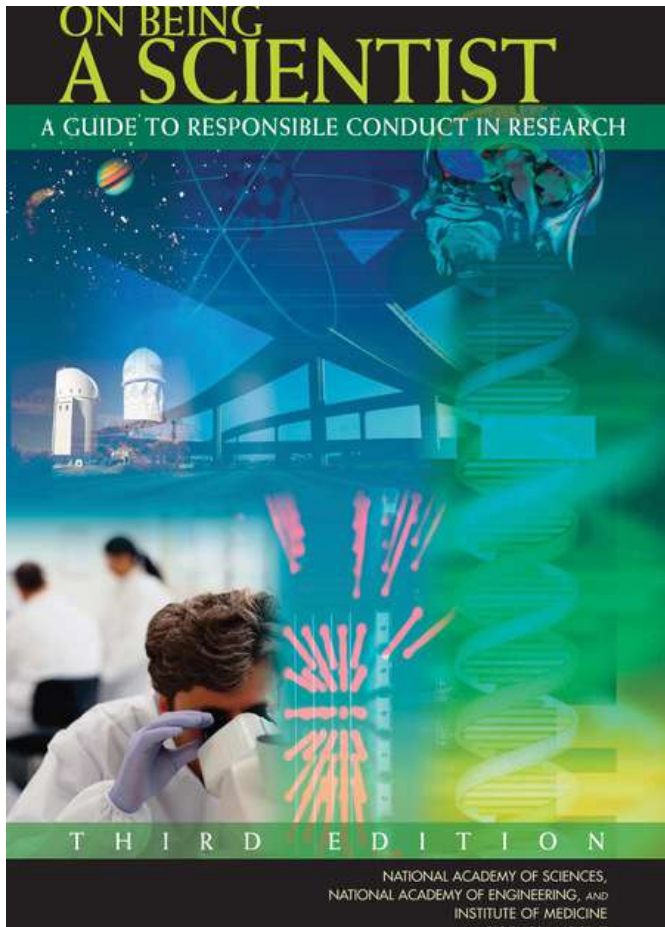
Maintaining function

- ∴ 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.





CUDOS (Merton 1942)

⋮ Communism, **U**niversalism,
⋮ Disinterestedness, **O**rganized **S**kepticism

Rewards & sanctions

⋮ "Carrot and stick"
⋮ Attempt to explain the force and durability of scientific norms.

Functional norms

⋮ Merton was not (necessarily) arguing that scientists *should* conform to these CUDOS norms
⋮ He was arguing that these norms are what ensures the production of certified scientific knowledge

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

In person



Find your group

- Meet with your group members at tables or outside of the classroom. Find the Teams channel for your group.

Online



Find your group

- Find the Teams channel for your group, and organize there. Can start a video meeting, voice, or only text.

Small-group discussions:

- Due this Friday, Sept 22**
- Choose **one facilitator** who will keep the discussion focused and make sure everyone is able to participate.
- Choose **one secretary** who will take notes and summarize the group's responses for submission.
- Work directly on the document available in your group chat; there is no need to submit the document

Notes:

- You do not need to reach consensus on the questions. Your write-up should mention the different points your group thought were relevant. **One or two paragraphs** worth of text per question should be sufficient.
Please avoid bullet-point format.
- You can discuss the questions in **any order** you like, and you do *not* need to respond to all of them (minimum 2). Read over them before you begin!
- Refer directly to the text in your responses.